



**Greater Los Angeles County  
Vector Control District**  
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# NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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Increase in West Nile virus Activity Reported in the San Fernando Valley  
This Week

**Santa Fe Springs—** Three more mosquito samples and one bird from San Fernando Valley have tested positive for West Nile virus (WNV).

The mosquito pools collected by the Greater Los Angeles County Vector Control District on July 6, 2007 were identified as positive for WNV today by the California Department of Public Health and the UC Davis arbovirus diagnostic laboratory. One sample was collected from traps in Panorama City (zipcode 91402) and the other two samples were both from Granada Hills (zipcode 91344).

Just last week, a mosquito sample collected from traps in the same Granada Hills zipcode tested positive for the virus. So far this year, the district has confirmed six (6) WNV positive mosquito pools.

An American crow collected from North Hills (zipcode 91343) on July 11, 2007 also tested positive for the disease, bringing the total number of WNV positive birds identified in the Greater L.A. County area to three (3), this year.

“This was expected,” says Minoos Madon, the District’s Scientific-Technical Services Director. “Warmer temperatures play a role in activating the virus. Since the San Fernando Valley tends to be much warmer than the rest of the L.A. Basin, we expected more virus activity in that area.”

Madon says an increase in virus activity has been detected statewide. To date this year, there have been three reported human cases in California. All three were confirmed in Kern County. Fortunately, there have been no human cases here in Los Angeles County.

The District will continue its efforts to inform residents of West Nile virus activity and high risk areas. In addition, extra-help workers have been hired to assist with disease surveillance and mosquito abatement during this busy summer season.

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The District encourages residents to do their part to protect themselves against mosquito bites. West Nile virus is here to stay and residents can play an active role in mosquito prevention:

- Inspect all areas around your home. Eliminate standing water in clogged rain gutters, discarded tires, buckets, watering troughs or anything that holds water for more than a week to break the mosquito life cycle.
- Ensure that swimming pools, spas, and ponds are properly maintained.
- Change the water in pet dishes and replace water in birdbaths weekly.
- Fix leaky faucets and sprinklers that may create puddles.
- Avoid over-watering your lawns and gardens to prevent excess run-off.
- Wear long sleeve shirts and pants outdoors at dawn and dusk when mosquitoes are most active.
- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends using mosquito repellents containing DEET, Picaridin, or oil of lemon eucalyptus.
- Keep tight fitting screens on doors and windows to prevent mosquitoes
- Pick up FREE mosquitofish from the Greater L.A. County Vector Control District for placement in out-of-order swimming pools, spas, and ponds to control mosquitoes.

The public is encouraged to report dead birds to help with West Nile virus surveillance and control efforts, as birds play an important role in maintaining and spreading the virus. The CA Department of Public Health's toll-free hotline is 877-WNV BIRD or visit on-line at: [www.westnile.ca.gov](http://www.westnile.ca.gov).

For more information or a media interview, please call Minoo Madon at (562)244-0728 or visit: [www.glacvcd.org](http://www.glacvcd.org).