



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

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Long Beach Residents Need To Take Extra Precautions For West Nile Virus

Mosquitoes collected by the Greater Los Angeles County Vector Control District (GLACVCD) in Long Beach residential areas were confirmed positive for West Nile virus (WNV) on June 29, 2005 by the California Department of Health Services and the UC Davis arbovirus diagnostic laboratory. Twenty mosquito pools were submitted and six out of the twenty mosquito pools were confirmed positive for WNV. The positive mosquitoes were collected in zip code 90815 between Bellflower Blvd, Studebaker Road, Willow Street and Atherton Street. Residents living in this section of Long Beach need to take extra precautions and protect themselves from mosquito bites, due to the above-normal WNV infectivity rate in mosquitoes collected from this area.

District Manager Jack Hazelrigg states, "Residents in this area need to be aware of the increased mosquito activity and take precautions when active outdoors and make sure they do not have standing water on their property." GLACVCD is determining whether the mosquitoes are primarily emerging from public mosquito-breeding sources or backyard sources. The District is increasing its surveillance efforts in the area, and trapping mosquitoes around the perimeter of this "hot spot" to figure out how wide-spread the problem is or if it's localized in this particular area. GLACVCD is asking the Long Beach Police Department to assist in locating backyard mosquito breeding sources by using aerial surveillance. West Nile virus warning signs will be posted in all public areas in the 90815 zip code.

So far, no wild birds or sentinel chicken flocks have converted positive for West Nile virus in this area. "The staff is currently finding the West Nile virus in the mosquitoes before it has a chance to infect the birds in the area," says Minoo Madon, Scientific Technical Services Director. This demonstrates the diligent and proactive efforts of the District in its surveillance to track down the virus.

"Wipe Out West Nile Virus" is a public awareness campaign launched by mosquito and vector control districts in metropolitan Los Angeles and surrounding communities to assist in

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preventing West Nile virus. Residents can protect themselves and their family by playing an active role in mosquito prevention.

- Mosquitoes breed in standing water. Eliminate standing water on your property by dumping or draining water in neglected swimming pools, ponds, rain barrels, discarded tires, buckets, or anything holding water for more than a few days. This will stop the mosquito life cycle.
- Wear long-sleeve shirts and pants when outdoors, especially at dusk and dawn when mosquitoes are active.
- Use mosquito repellent containing DEET.
- Keep tight-fitting screens on doors and windows to prevent mosquitoes from entering homes.

For more information please visit: www.glacvcd.org.