



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

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For Immediate Release

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West Nile virus Activity in the San Fernando Valley Contributes to High California Case Counts

**Santa Fe Springs**— Officials from the Greater Los Angeles County Vector Control District report that the number of confirmed West Nile virus (WNV) positive test samples in the Los Angeles Basin continues to increase this summer. A mosquito sample collected in Granada Hills from zipcode 91344 and an American crow collected in Tarzana from zipcode 91356 were confirmed positive for WNV last week. Another American crow collected in Van Nuys from zipcode 91406 was confirmed for the virus this week.

So far this year, the District has confirmed a total of seven WNV positive mosquito pools within District boundaries. Four of those samples were from Granada Hills. Six dead birds were also confirmed positive, most of them from the San Fernando Valley.

“This summer presents classical environmental and ecological conditions for a resurgence of this virus,” says Minoo Madon, the District’s Scientific-Technical Services Director. “The prevailing warm weather pattern coupled with lack of rainfall, the potential for increased mosquito activity, and the recovery of bird species such as crows can contribute to increased transmission in the natural disease cycle of West Nile virus.”

Madon says if the mosquito populations increase during the remainder of this season, the State could expect to see an increase in human cases.

Throughout the state, the number of cases is climbing dramatically. Statewide, 423 birds and 317 mosquito pools have been confirmed positive for WNV. The California Department of Public Health reports 56 human cases of WNV, including four WNV-related fatalities. Fortunately, there have been no human cases reported in Los Angeles County.

The Greater Los Angeles County Vector Control District maintains an aggressive campaign to control mosquitoes and test for diseases such as West Nile virus. West Nile virus warning signs and public education efforts help raise awareness of areas with confirmed virus activity.

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The District encourages residents to do their part to prevent mosquito breeding in their neighborhoods and protect themselves against mosquito bites.

- Inspect all areas around your home and eliminate anything that holds water for more than a week.
- Ensure that swimming pools, spas, and ponds are properly maintained.
- Report mosquito-breeding problems in your neighborhood.
- 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 contact Truc Dever at (562)944-9656 or visit: [www.glacvcd.org](http://www.glacvcd.org).