



**Greater Los Angeles County
Vector Control District**
12545 Florence Ave.
Santa Fe Springs, CA 90670
(562) 944-9656

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

May 25, 2007

Contact: Truc Dever
Public Information Officer
(562) 244-2648 cell

Mino Madon
Scientific-Technical Services Dir.
(562)244-0728 cell

West Nile Virus Positive Mosquitoes Identified in Los Angeles County; District
Advises Memorial Day Travelers to Take Precautions

Santa Fe Springs--Los Angeles County residents planning outdoor activities such as barbecues and hiking trips this Memorial Day weekend are advised to take precautions against mosquito bites.

Mosquitoes collected by the Greater Los Angeles County Vector Control District were confirmed positive for West Nile virus (WNV) on May 25, 2007 by the California Department of Public Health and the UC Davis arbovirus diagnostic laboratory. The mosquitoes were collected from traps in South El Monte from zip code 91733 at Whittier Narrows Recreation Area.

So far this year, there has been one other WNV positive mosquito sample identified in the Greater Los Angeles region. That sample was collected in January from Rowland Heights in zip code 91748.

Two dead birds collected earlier this year in Los Angeles County also tested positive for the virus. To date this year, there have been no reported human cases in California.

"If you are outdoors during the Memorial Day weekend between dusk and dawn, make sure you protect yourself from mosquito bites," says Mino Madon, Scientific-Technical Services Director for the Greater Los Angeles County Vector Control District.

Madon says the District will be posting WNV warning signs in the area to inform residents and visitors. District staff will also step up disease surveillance and mosquito control efforts in the area. The District does not discourage outdoor recreational activity in the area, but is warning recreation users to be more cautious of increased virus activity.

-More-

West Nile virus is here to stay and residents can protect themselves and their families by playing an active role in mosquito prevention:

- Inspect front and backyards. Eliminate standing water in clogged rain gutters, rain barrels, 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.
- 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 at your local vector control district for placement in out-of-order swimming pools, spas, and ponds to control mosquitoes.
- A West Nile virus vaccine for horses is available and horse owners should contact a veterinarian about timely vaccination.

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.

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