

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Greater Los Angeles County Vector Control District

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West Nile Virus Positive Mosquitoes Confirmed in Los Angeles County

This is the first positive West Nile virus mosquito pool within the Greater Los Angeles County Vector Control District Service Area

Los Angeles County (July 22, 2021) – The Greater Los Angeles County Vector Control District (GLACVCD/District) has confirmed West Nile virus (WNV) positive mosquito samples in Los Angeles County. The positive mosquito samples were collected from mosquito traps in Bellflower (90706), Studio City (91602), and Tarzana (91356), confirming the presence of the virus in mosquito populations within the community.

While this confirmation serves as the District's first [positive West Nile virus mosquito](#) pool this year, virus activity has been increasing steadily throughout California, including other [vector control jurisdictions within the County](#). Additionally, the District submitted a [dead bird located in Valley Village](#) which has been confirmed positive for WNV.

“West Nile virus is detected every summer by local public health agencies because it is endemic to Los Angeles County,” said Susanne Kluh, director of Scientific-Technical Services at GLACVCD. “This virus is spread through our bird population and transmitted to humans with the bite of an infected mosquito.”

Because there is no human vaccine for West Nile Virus, residents must be proactive against mosquito bites by wearing insect repellent. Many mosquito repellents are available to prevent bites, but they do not all work equally well. The [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) recommend products with the active ingredients DEET, Picaridin, IR3535, or oil of lemon eucalyptus as being safe and effective against mosquitoes that can transmit disease when used according to the labels.

“Our agency will continue monitoring disease activity and keep residents informed so they can protect themselves from mosquito bites during dusk and dawn.,” said Anais Medina Diaz, public information officer for GLACVCD. “But it is very important to remember that at this time the virus could be anywhere, even though we may not have detected it yet.”

One in five persons infected with the virus will exhibit symptoms. Symptoms can include fever, headache, body aches, nausea, or a skin rash. These symptoms can last for several days to months. One in 150 people infected with the virus will require hospitalization. Severe symptoms include high fever, muscle weakness, neck stiffness, coma, paralysis, and possibly death. If residents feel they are experiencing symptoms, it is strongly recommended to consult their primary care physician.

Mosquito control is a shared responsibility and residents must take an active role in reducing the threat of WNV in their neighborhoods by taking these additional steps:

- Eliminate standing water in clogged rain gutters, rain barrels, discarded tires, buckets, watering troughs or anything that holds water for more than a week.

- Ensure that swimming pools, spas, and ponds are properly maintained.
- Change the water in pet dishes, bird baths and other small containers weekly.
- Request mosquitofish from your local vector control district for placement in ornamental ponds.
- Wear EPA-recommended insect repellent when outdoors where mosquitoes may be present.
- Report neglected (green) swimming pools in your neighborhood to your vector control district.

For an extensive list of sources and recommended solutions, visit www.tiptosstakeaction.org. For more information, residents can contact the Greater Los Angeles County Vector Control District at 562-944-9656, online at www.glacvcd.org, or on social media: [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#).

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About West Nile virus:

WNV is transmitted to people and animals through the bite of an infected mosquito. There is no cure for WNV. One in five persons infected with the virus will exhibit symptoms. Symptoms can include fever, headache, body aches, nausea, or a skin rash. These symptoms can last for several days to months. One in 150 people infected with the virus will require hospitalization. Severe symptoms include high fever, muscle weakness, neck stiffness, coma, paralysis, and possibly death.

About GLACVCD

The Greater Los Angeles County Vector Control District is a public health service agency formed under the authority of the California State Health & Safety Code. Our mission is to reduce populations of public health vectors below nuisance levels and prevent human infection associated with mosquito-transmitted diseases.