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Heightened West Nile Virus Activity Across Greater Los Angeles

Vector Control urges residents to protect themselves from mosquito bites as West Nile virus activity remains high.

Santa Fe Springs, CA (September 28, 2026) – The [Greater Los Angeles County Vector Control District \(GLACVCD/District\)](#) is alerting residents to heightened West Nile virus (WNV) activity across Los Angeles County and reminding the public to take precautions against mosquito bites. WNV-positive mosquito samples and dead birds have surpassed last year's levels and are trending above the five-year average, while the [Los Angeles County Department of Public Health](#) has reported over 100 human cases and five deaths. The elevated activity comes amid increased WNV activity across California and other parts of the country.

"West Nile virus is cyclical, and the level of activity we see can look different each year," said Steve Vetrone, the District's Assistant General Manager of Vector Management Services. "This year, we have seen increased disease activity across the region, with activity beginning earlier than usual. An extremely mild winter where rainfall was interspersed with unusually warm weather earlier in the year are among the environmental factors that have contributed to these conditions."

Native *Culex* mosquitoes can transmit WNV and are most active from dusk to dawn. Although *Culex* mosquito abundance within the district remains below the five-year average, WNV activity is significantly elevated. So far this year, the District has detected 384 WNV-positive mosquito samples and 78 WNV-positive dead birds, compared with 104 positive mosquito samples and two positive dead birds at this time last year. In response to the elevated activity, GLACVCD mobilized staff across its Operations, Scientific-Technical, and Communications departments.

"After seeing increased activity early in the season, we stepped up inspection and control efforts along with mosquito monitoring, and public outreach," added Vetrone. "The control efforts have helped keep WNV transmitting *Culex* mosquito populations low. With WNV activity high, our work continues, and residents can do their part by preventing mosquito bites and eliminating standing water."

With no human vaccine currently available for WNV, preventing mosquito bites is the most important step residents can take to reduce their risk. Residents should use an effective insect repellent when outdoors, particularly from dusk to dawn when *Culex* mosquitoes are the most active. Simple actions can help protect individuals, families, and communities from WNV:

- **Use insect repellent** containing at least 15% DEET, Picaridin, IR3535, or Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus.
- **Wear loose-fitting, long-sleeved shirts and pants.**
- **Remove standing water** around the home to prevent mosquitoes from breeding.
- **Report neglected or green swimming pools** in your neighborhood to your local vector control agency.
- **Report dead birds** to the California Department of Public Health at westnile.ca.gov or by calling 1-877-WNV-BIRD.

For more mosquito control information, residents can contact the Greater Los Angeles County Vector Control District at 562-944-9656, visit GLAmosquito.org, or follow the District on [Facebook](#), [X](#), [Instagram](#), [Nextdoor](#), and [YouTube](#).

About West Nile virus (WNV):

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 an independent Special District and public health agency formed under the authority of the California State Health & Safety Code. Our mission is to promote healthy communities within the District's service area by countering the threat of mosquito and other vector-borne diseases through exceptional service, rigorous surveillance strategies, conscientious control measures, and comprehensive education efforts.