



San Gabriel Valley Mosquito & Vector Control District

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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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WEST NILE VIRUS FOUND IN SAN GABRIEL VALLEY

West Covina, CA (May 12, 2011) –

A dead crow collected by the San Gabriel Valley Mosquito & Vector Control District has tested positive for West Nile virus (WNV). This is the first indication of WNV activity in Los Angeles County this year. The crow was collected Tuesday near the corner of San Bernardino Road and Azusa Canyon Road in the City of West Covina.

Warmer temperatures provide ideal conditions for WNV amplification and transmission. Mosquitoes pick up WNV from infected birds and spread it to other birds when they bite again. People can also get WNV if bitten by an infected mosquito.

Dead birds are often the first indication of WNV activity in an area. Residents are encouraged to report dead birds to the State hotline (877)WNV-BIRD (968-2473) or online at www.westnile.ca.gov and report mosquito problems to their local District.

It is critical that residents survey their property and remove all standing water to prevent mosquito reproduction. Mosquitoes lay their eggs in stagnant water sources such as neglected pools, buckets, misc. containers, puddles and ponds. Eggs can hatch and mature to biting adults in 5-7 days.

Since its introduction in 2003, there have been 2,988 reported infections and 101 deaths from WNV in California. West Nile virus is present and a risk to public health every year.

Throughout the summer, basic protective measures should be followed:

- **DRAIN:** Check properties weekly and remove all sources of standing water. Report 'green' inoperable pools or other sources of standing water to the District
- **DAWN AND DUSK:** Wear effective repellents if outdoors when mosquitoes are present (between dusk and dawn)
- **DEFEND:** Ensure doors and windows are properly screened

The District encourages the public to help identify WNV "hot spots" by reporting dead birds to the **WNV Hotline at (877) WNV-BIRD** (877-968-2473) or online at **www.westnile.ca.gov**. We also urge our residents to **call the District to report any mosquito activity**.

The San Gabriel Valley Mosquito & Vector Control District is a public health agency dedicated to the control of mosquito and other vector-borne diseases.
The District can be reached at 626-814-9466 or on the web at www.sgvmosquito.org

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