

San Gabriel Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District

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San Gabriel Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District has identified West Nile virus (WNV)-positive mosquitoes from the city of La Verne.

West Covina, CA - August 20, 2014

A sample of mosquitoes collected from traps placed in Golden Hills Wilderness Park in the city of La Verne on August 12, 2014 was tested and found positive for West Nile virus (WNV). Vector control officials have already intensified surveillance and control efforts in the foothill communities to prepare for the seasonal emergence of this virus.

The best precaution against WNV is to prevent mosquito bites. All residents within the District and especially those living near Golden Hills Wilderness Park should use repellants according to their labels, wear long sleeves and long pants if outdoors between dusk and dawn, and ensure windows and doors are properly screened to keep mosquitoes outside.

Warmer temperatures provide ideal conditions for WNV amplification and transmission. Mosquitoes pick up WNV from infected birds and spread it to other birds and humans when they bite again (see attached WNV transmission cycle).

Although no human cases have been reported yet this year in our District, 93 have been reported in California as of August 20, 2014, up from 59 reported this time last year. There have been four human fatalities confirmed in the state this year to date. The total number of WNV-positive mosquito samples is also up state wide at 2041 positive samples as compared to 1349 this time last year (see attached chart of West Nile virus activity in California).

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

Since its introduction in 2003 through 2013, there have been 4,004 reported infections and 145 deaths from WNV in California. West Nile virus presents a risk to public health every year.

Throughout the summer, basic protective measures should be followed:

- **AVOID** Over-watering and prevent litter, leaves and debris from entering the gutters and streets.
- **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 and long sleeves if outdoors when mosquitoes are present (between dawn and dusk.)
- **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

West Nile Virus Activity in California Counties 2014 YTD

Human cases	93
Dead birds	1480
Mosquito pools	2041
Sentinel chickens	129

Updated 8/20/14
N = 18 counties
with human
cases



