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# Mosquito Control Experts Feature How to Prevent Mosquito Bites in New Music Video

West Covina, Calif. (May 23, 2024) —The <u>San Gabriel Valley Mosquito & Vector Control District</u> (SGVMVCD/District) reminds residents to take an important step in protecting their health this holiday weekend with the release of its latest mosquito jingle, "Los Repelentes."

"Jump into summer with a new mosquito tune and a reminder of the best way to prevent mosquito bites and mosquito-transmitted diseases," said Communications Director Anais Medina Diaz. "This new music video highlights how applying repellent is a simple, yet important step in protecting your health this summer."



New Music Video – "Los Repelentes"

Set in a mythical town in the San Gabriel Mountains, "Los Repelentes" follows the story of a community that finds repellent ingredients excellent in repelling mosquitoes, but one resident is reluctant to use them until he soon realizes how dangerous and annoying mosquito bites can be. The resident quickly appreciates the magic of using mosquito repellent after seeing how effective the four repellent ingredients are at protecting members of his community.

While summer is still officially a few weeks away, daytime and nighttime temperatures continue to increase, creating suitable environmental conditions for mosquito populations to thrive. Mosquito control officials urge residents to take this holiday weekend as an opportunity to tip out standing water, toss out unused containers, and protect themselves by using an insect repellent that has an active ingredient recommended by the CDC such as DEET, Picaridin, IR3535, and Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus.

Although West Nile virus persists as the biggest threat to San Gabriel Valley residents, mosquito control officials are concerned about an increase in travel-related dengue cases due to <u>dengue epidemics around the world</u>. Last fall, the <u>District quickly responded to the first locally acquired Dengue case in California</u>. With the presence of aggressive, day-time biting *Aedes* mosquitoes in the San Gabriel Valley, the risk of other locally acquired cases remains.

Mosquito control is a shared responsibility. The District urges residents to take an active role in reducing the threat of mosquitoes in their communities.

For more information, residents can contact the San Gabriel Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District at 626-814-9466, online at SGVmosquito.org, or on social media: <u>Facebook</u>, <u>Twitter</u>, and <u>Instagram</u>.

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# **About SGVMVCD**

SGVMVCD is one of five vector control districts in Los Angeles County. Year-round, the agency monitors stagnant water sources, such as gutters, storm drains, channels and non-functional swimming pools. The agency also routinely monitors populations of adult mosquitoes using traps and tests groups of adult female mosquitoes for the presence of <u>WNV</u> and other mosquito-borne diseases. In addition, the agency submits samples from dead birds, such as crows, for testing, which can provide insight into the spread of WNV.

# **About West Nile Virus**

According to the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, West Nile virus (WNV) is spread by the bite of an infected mosquito. One in five individuals infected with the WNV, for which there is no cure, will exhibit symptoms that include fever, headache, body aches, nausea or skin rash. The 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. Those at greatest risk include seniors and individuals with compromised immune systems. People over 50 years of age and those with chronic health problems are at higher risk of severe illness. While not all mosquitoes carry this virus, the type of mosquito that spreads this virus is found throughout Los Angeles County.