

San Gabriel Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District

For Immediate Release
Wednesday, October 1, 2014



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

West Covina, CA - October 1, 2014

A sample of mosquitoes collected from traps placed in Temple City on September 25, 2014 was tested and found positive for West Nile virus (WNV). Temple City is one of three cities within the District where West Nile virus-positive mosquitoes have been found so far this summer. The other two cities are Walnut and La Verne. The activity of West Nile virus has been relatively low in San Gabriel Valley this year compared to the rest of California, but the state so far has seen (375) human cases. An epidemic of infections with WNV is occurring in Orange County where officials have reported (159) human cases resulting in four deaths as of September 29.

Vector control agencies use four indicators to monitor West Nile virus activity locally; infected mosquitoes, dead birds infected with the virus, sentinel chickens with antibodies to the virus, and human cases. As of October 1, the San Gabriel Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District (SGVMVCD) has recorded three positive mosquito samples, seven positive dead birds, and three positive sentinel chickens. Six confirmed human cases have been reported within the District.

Officials in San Gabriel Valley are encouraging residents to stay well informed about West Nile virus and what they can do to reduce mosquito populations and prevent mosquito bites. "West Nile virus is endemic in LA County which means it is here to stay," says Jason Farned, Public information Officer for SGVMVCD. "Some years present a higher risk than others but the threat is always there. The situation in Orange County is a great example as to why everyone should stay well-informed; you just never know when your area will experience an epidemic." Kenn Fujioka, District Manager warns, "West Nile virus is present throughout the District and in previous years humans definitely have been infected in September and October. No one can ever assume there is no risk."

The best precaution against WNV is to prevent mosquito bites. Residents 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). 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.

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.

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

Please visit our website for more information. www.SGVMosquito.org



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