

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Stay Bite Free This Memorial Day Weekend

Start the summer season with these mosquito prevention tips

West Covina, Calif. (May 25, 2023) — The [San Gabriel Valley Mosquito & Vector Control District](#) (SGVMVCD/District) reminds residents to prepare for mosquito season and prevent mosquito bites this holiday weekend. To date, the District has not reported any West Nile virus activity this year, but mosquito traps are showing an increase in abundance as temperatures rise.

Eliminating standing water sources, using insect repellents, and wearing protective clothing are the most effective ways for residents to protect themselves and their families from mosquito bites and mosquito-transmitted diseases like West Nile virus (WNV).

“It’s not just a mosquito bite,” said SGVMVCD Communications Director Anais Medina Diaz. “Using an insect repellent with one of the four CDC-recommended ingredients is an effective way to protect against debilitating, and sometimes fatal, mosquito-transmitted diseases.”

WNV is endemic in the San Gabriel Valley and is usually detected in the summer by local public health agencies. While there is no human vaccine, the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) recommend products with the active ingredients DEET, Picaridin, IR3535, or oil of lemon eucalyptus as being safe and effective against mosquitoes.

Additionally, San Gabriel Valley residents face the aggressive, daytime biting, invasive *Aedes* mosquito. Although the District actively monitors and controls mosquitoes in known sources like gutters, storm drains, basins, and non-functioning pools as part of its year-round program, residents are urged to share the responsibility of mosquito control by eliminating standing water on their private properties.

“This year’s record-breaking winter storms may have filled up potential mosquito breeding sources throughout the region,” said Medina Diaz. “Under the right conditions, female mosquitoes only need three to five days to complete their life cycle and become biting adults.”

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: [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#)

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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 WNV 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.