



**San Gabriel Valley Mosquito &  
Vector Control District**

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[www.sgvmosquito.org](http://www.sgvmosquito.org)

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## NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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**West Covina, CA (August 30, 2007)** – A sample of 30 mosquitoes collected from Kahler Russell Park in the City of Covina have been confirmed infected with West Nile virus (WNV). Mosquitoes are routinely trapped and tested by the San Gabriel Valley Mosquito & Vector Control District for the presence of this and other mosquito-transmitted viruses. Six traps were placed around this park in the District's heightened effort to detect and control WNV infected mosquitoes. This is the first indication of mosquitoes infected with the virus in the area this year.

Last week, the District reported identification of five more WNV-infected birds from the San Gabriel Valley area, three of which were from the City of Covina. This year, a total of nine WNV infected birds have been collected from the cities of El Monte, Covina, La Puente, La Verne, and West Covina.

District employees posted warning signs around the park today to remind park visitors to stay safe by avoiding mosquito bites. Simple precautions include avoiding outdoor activity during evening and early morning hours when mosquitoes are active or wearing protective clothing and mosquito repellents if outdoors during these times.

“We don't want to discourage physical activity by our residents. As WNV is now a part of our daily lives, we want to remind residents to protect themselves and their families while enjoying the outdoors” noted Steve West, the District's General Manager. “Using repellent is a safe and a very effective way of reducing the risk of contracting WNV.”

District Technicians and Ecologists continue to survey the area for mosquito activity. Residents in the area are encouraged to check their property thoroughly

for standing water and dump it out. Dirty pools, spas, ponds & fountains should be cleaned and treated to prevent mosquito reproduction. Contact the district to request assistance, report standing water or 'green' swimming pools, or get FREE mosquito eating fish for ponds and water gardens.

We also encourage residents to continue to report any dead birds or tree squirrels to the California West Nile Virus Hotline at 1-877-WNV-BIRD (1-877-968-2473) or online at [www.westnile.ca.gov](http://www.westnile.ca.gov) . Not all birds and squirrels will be collected, but the data is vital in tracking and controlling the virus.

Remembering the **3 Ds** will help residents stay safe:

1. **DRAIN:** Monitor your property weekly and dump out standing water. Properly maintain pools and spas (buckets, unused "green" swimming pools, and poorly maintained ponds/fountains are notorious mosquito breeders). Avoid over-watering and repair leaky faucets/sprinklers.
2. **DUSK/DAWN:** Avoid outside activity at dawn and dusk when mosquitoes are most active.
3. **DEET:** If outdoors during peak hours, use a repellents containing the ingredient DEET, Picaridin, or oil of lemon eucalyptus. Be sure to follow label directions for maximum effectiveness.

**West Nile virus is a community issue that requires the community's participation to reduce the risk of disease transmission.**

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](http://www.sgvmosquito.org).

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