



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

1145 N. Azusa Canyon Road
West Covina, CA 91790
(626) 814-9466
www.sgvmosquito.org

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Contact:

Steve West
District Manager
(626) 814-9466

Kelly Middleton
Public Information Officer
(626)814-9466

West Covina, CA (September 4, 2007) – More mosquitoes have tested positive for West Nile virus (WNV) in the San Gabriel Valley. Mosquitoes collected from Palm View Park in West Covina were tested August 30 and found to have been infected. Mosquitoes feeding on infected birds acquire West Nile virus and can then transmit the virus to people when they bite.

“Mosquito populations are low in the area this year; however we are able to find WNV-infected mosquitoes even in these small samples. This heightens our level of concern especially with the extreme heat we’ve had over the past week” states Kenn Fujioka, Assistant Manager with the San Gabriel Valley Mosquito & Vector Control District. Mosquitoes become more active, reproduce faster, and transmit WNV better at higher temperatures. “We are likely to see continued WNV activity for several more months.”

Kelly Middleton, Public Information Officer for the District cautions residents; “While finding WNV infected mosquitoes is not surprising, we are concerned that those without air conditioning will spend more time outdoors in the evening hours to escape the heat and leave unscreened doors and windows open allowing mosquitoes to enter the home. In these situations, mosquito repellants containing DEET, Picaridin, or oil of lemon eucalyptus should be used to keep mosquitoes from biting.” Residents are encouraged to contact the District if they are having problems with mosquitoes and need assistance.

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 do not want to panic people, however we do want them to be aware of the risks and take appropriate precautions” noted District Manager, Steve West.

West Nile virus is active throughout the San Gabriel Valley. Thus far 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; infected mosquitoes from the cities of Covina and West Covina; and one sentinel chicken tested positive in the city of Monterey Park.

District Technicians and Ecologists continue to survey the area for mosquito activity. Residents 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 . 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.

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