



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

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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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West Covina, CA (May 29, 2008) - West Nile virus (WNV) has been detected in the San Gabriel Valley. Two crows, collected from Temple City and one from Arcadia, have tested positive for WNV. These birds were collected and tested last week by the San Gabriel Valley Mosquito & Vector Control District and the Los Angeles County Veterinary Public Health. This represents the first identification of WNV in the San Gabriel Valley this year. West Nile virus is endemic to California, and its reemergence serves as a strong reminder to the public of its potential danger.

Steve West, General Manager of the San Gabriel Valley Mosquito & Vector Control District, cautions, "In addition to the discoveries in the San Gabriel Valley, mosquitoes have been actively transmitting West Nile virus in Southern California." To date, 64 dead birds have tested positive for WNV in California, 51 of those are from Southern California counties.

"We expect to see more birds dying from WNV in the coming months," noted Kenn Fujioka, the District's Assistant Manager, "Bird populations seem to have recovered from the WNV epidemic of 2004. The virus is amplified in wild birds which increases the risk of human cases since more mosquitoes can potentially become infected."

The District encourages the public to help identify WNV "hot spots" by reporting dead birds to the WNV Hotline at (800)WNV-BIRD (800-968-2473) or online at www.westnile.ca.gov. "We're asking our residents to store this number in their cell phones to make reporting easier," says West. While all birds might not be collected and tested, the reports are analyzed with sophisticated software by the

California Department of Public Health to identify problem areas. This helps mosquito and vector control districts expedite control measures designed to reduce risks in these areas. We also urge our residents to call the District to report any mosquito activity.

Vacant homes with inoperable pools pose a very real risk to neighborhoods. One 'green' pool can breed thousands of mosquitoes per week that affect properties for blocks around. Residents are encouraged to report any such pools to the District at 626.814.9466 or www.sgvmosquito.org.

Throughout the summer, basic protective measures should be followed:

- Check properties and remove all sources of standing water
- Report 'green' inoperable pools or other sources of standing water to the District
- Use effective repellents if outdoors when mosquitoes are present (between dusk and dawn)
- Ensure doors and windows are properly screened

The District also provides the following pointers:

- Bleach will not kill mosquito larvae in water. Proper chlorination will *prevent algae from growing* which serves as a food source for mosquito larvae and attracts egg-laying female mosquitoes.
- Backyard ponds, water barrels, and fountains should be stocked with mosquitofish or treated with mosquito control products (Bti, Bs, or methoprene) available at home garden centers.
- When outdoors, do not rely on candles or other mosquito 'repellers' or 'zappers' since they have very limited or no effect
- Broad-spectrum yard sprays will have little effect on mosquito populations around the home. Eliminating the source (standing water) is the best tactic.

The San Gabriel Valley Mosquito & Vector Control District provides mosquito control as a public service – there is no charge to request our services.

The San Gabriel Valley Mosquito & Vector Control District is a non-profit 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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