



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

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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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West Covina, CA (August 24, 2007) – West Nile virus activity has increased in the San Gabriel Valley. Five new West Nile virus positive birds were identified by this District and the Los Angeles County Public Health Veterinary Services. Three of the birds were found in Covina and the cities of La Puente and La Verne each had a West Nile positive bird.

Although evidence of West Nile virus has been at a low level in the District throughout the summer, this concentration of positive birds is an unwelcome event. District Manager, Steve West, requests residents be “vigilant with their personal mosquito protection.”

Residents are reminded 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.

District Technicians and Ecologists continue to patrol and control to identify breeding sites and eliminate mosquitoes. Residents can be a tremendous amount of help by monitoring their neighborhoods and following the simple steps outlined below to reduce the risk of exposure to mosquito bites and West Nile 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.

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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