



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

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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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West Covina, CA (August 3, 2007) – A second dead crow collected from the City of West Covina has tested positive for West Nile virus. The bird was reported by an attentive citizen from West Covina and tested by the San Gabriel Valley Mosquito & Vector Control District on August 2nd. The first was identified by Los Angeles County Veterinary Public Health officials on July 23rd.

Dead bird reporting helps local health authorities identify WNV activity and is critical in our surveillance efforts. “We rely on the assistance of our residents to report dead birds to the State WNV Hotline” says Kelly Middleton, Public Information Officer for the San Gabriel Valley Mosquito & Vector Control District. Residents can make reports online at www.westnile.ca.gov or by calling 800-WNV-BIRD (800-968-2473).

West Nile virus activity has picked up substantially in many California counties. Thus far, Los Angeles County has only experienced limited WNV activity, but the higher temperatures we’ve experienced may spark a resurgence of the virus in the coming weeks.

All residents, regardless of the city in which they reside, are urged to take WNV seriously. As of Friday, August 03, 2007, there have been 64 confirmed cases of WNV infection in humans in California. For every case identified, there are many, many more that are never diagnosed. “It’s just the tip of the iceberg,” noted Steve West, Manager of the San Gabriel Valley & Mosquito & Vector Control District. “We’re concerned that residents don’t fully appreciate the severity of illness this virus can cause – and not just in the elderly.”

West also serves as the President of the Mosquito & Vector Control Association of California and recently sent a letter urging Governor Schwarzenegger to allocate additional resources for both short and long-term prevention and control measures to fight West Nile virus in California. "We were thrilled with the Governor's rapid response," says West. "He saw the seriousness of the situation and his prompt attention will assuredly save lives."

Middleton encourages residents to call and report mosquito problems, get free mosquitofish for ponds, and request our help when needed.

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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