



**Los Angeles County West Vector
& Vector-Borne Disease Control District
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West Nile Virus Public Health Update & Advisory

Period Ending August 15, 2013

This is a West Nile virus (WNV) update and public health advisory for the period ending August 15, 2013 for all cities and unincorporated county areas within the Los Angeles County West Vector & Vector-Borne Disease Control District. Cities and areas within the District are: Agoura Hills, Beverly Hills, Calabasas, Culver City, El Segundo, Hawthorne, Hermosa Beach, Hidden Hills, Inglewood, Lawndale, Lomita, Malibu, Manhattan Beach, Palos Verdes Estates, Rancho Palos Verdes, Redondo Beach, Rolling Hills, Rolling Hills Estates, Santa Monica, Torrance, West Hollywood, Westlake Village, and portions of Los Angeles City and Los Angeles County.

About West Nile Virus (WNV) & Current Conditions:

Currently, there is widespread WNV activity throughout Los Angeles County. A map is attached indicating zip codes with positive WNV indicators and activity. WNV is endemic (constantly present) throughout all areas of Los Angeles County, whether shown on the map or not, and individuals should follow all recommendations listed below on reducing their risk of infection regardless of where they live.

There were 13 new human cases of WNV in LA County with the majority occurring in the South Bay.

Mosquitoes become infected when they first bite an infected bird and then transfer the virus to other birds and humans as they bite again. A wide variety of wild birds, including the American crow, are the reservoir for West Nile virus.

Most mosquitoes do not carry the virus and most people bitten by a mosquito are not exposed to the virus. The virus is not spread through person-to-person contact, or directly from birds to humans.

In most cases, people who are infected with West Nile virus never become sick, or have only very mild symptoms that include fever, headache, nausea, body aches, and a mild skin rash. Symptoms of WNV could appear within 3 to 12 days after infection.

Fewer than 1 in 150 people who are bitten by an infected mosquito become severely ill, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The elderly and those with weakened immune systems are most at risk for developing severe symptoms, which may require hospitalization. There is no specific treatment for this disease.

Positive Dead Birds:

WNV is endemic (constantly present) throughout Los Angeles County, California and the United States. With respect to positive indicators (dead birds, sentinel chicken flocks, mosquitoes, and dead squirrels), dead birds are the least reliable with respect to where the birds were actually infected. This is due to the fact that 90-95% of all dead birds that are positive for WNV are American crows which have extensive daily travel patterns.

American crows routinely travel as many as 10-20 miles each day from their nighttime nesting and roosting locations to feed and scavenge before returning to their original location in the evening. Infected mosquitoes bite the birds in the evening and at night as they roost and sleep. Because of these daily flight and roosting patterns, American crows may travel and die as far as 20 miles away from the location where they were actually bitten and infected by a mosquito.

This is particularly true the last two years as the crows have been travelling further west to the coastal cities during the days to escape the hotter inland temperatures to the east. Weather records show that this summer is about 3 degrees hotter than previous summers which would account for an even further movement by the crows to the west and the coastal cities.

Positive American crows collected in a specific area are significant only with respect to trends on a more regional or countywide basis. It does not indicate that a specific zip code, city, or location was the site where the actual mosquito bite and infection occurred because of the bird's extended daily travel patterns.

However, positive results for mosquito pools and sentinel chicken flocks are very specific with respect to the locations where positive mosquitoes exist and can transmit disease since the locations of the traps and chickens are fixed.

1. Nationally:

2013: 174 Human Cases; 7 Death(s)
2012: 5387 Human Cases; 243 Death(s) (entire year)

2. California:

2013: 37 Human Cases; 3 Death(s)
2012: 479 Human Cases; 19 Death(s) (entire year)

3. LA County:

2013: 27 Human Cases; 1 Death(s)
2012: 174 Human Cases; 6 Death(s)

4. Human Cases within LA County Health Dept. Service Planning Areas (SPA)* 2013:

SPA 1: Antelope Valley:	0 Human Case(s) (0 new human case(s) for this period)
SPA 2: San Fernando:	10 Human Case(s) (3 new human case(s) for this period)
SPA 3: San Gabriel:	4 Human Case(s) (1 new human case(s) for this period)
SPA 4: Metro:	1 Human Case(s) (1 new human case(s) for this period)
SPA 5: West:	0 Human Case(s) (0 new human case(s) for this period)
SPA 6: South:	0 Human Case(s) (0 new human case(s) for this period)
SPA 7: East:	6 Human Case(s) (3 new human case(s) for this period)
SPA 8: South Bay:	14 Human Case(s) (6 new human case(s) for this period)

* Map of SPAs is attached

5. **New WNV Positive Indicators inside the District's boundaries (thru 8-15-13):**
(WNV indicators are positive dead birds, sentinel chickens, mosquitoes, or squirrels)

Beverly Hills	SC (1): Zip 90210
Culver City:	DB (1): Zip 90230
El Segundo:	SC (1): Zip 90245
Hawthorne:	DB (2): Zip 90250
LA City:	DB (2): Zip 90047, 90019
Manhattan Beach:	DB (1): Zip 90266
Rancho Palos Verdes:	DB (1): Zip 90275
Redondo Beach:	DB (11): Zip 90277(5), 90278(6)
Rolling Hills Est.:	SC (1): Zip 90274
Torrance:	DB (4): Zip 90501

Types of Positives:

(DB) Dead Bird(s):	This is a dead bird tested for West Nile virus (WNV)
(MP) Mosquito Pool(s):	This is a group of trapped adult mosquitoes tested for WNV
(SC) Sentinel Chicken(s):	This is the testing of chickens housed in sentinel chicken flock coops distributed throughout the District designed to monitor WNV activity
(DS) Dead Squirrel(s):	This is a dead squirrel tested for WNV

Decrease risk of infection:

1. **DEET & other repellents:** Apply insect repellent according to the label. Repellents containing DEET, picaradin, IR3535, and oil of lemon eucalyptus are the longest lasting and most effective. Repellents keep the mosquitoes from biting you.
2. **DAWN AND DUSK:** Mosquitoes that carry WNV primarily bite in the early morning and evening so it is important to wear repellent at this time.
3. **MOSQUITO PROOF YOUR HOME:** Make sure that your doors and windows have tight-fitting screens to keep out mosquitoes. Repair or replace screens with tears or holes.
4. **DRAIN STANDING WATER:** Mosquitoes lay their eggs on standing water. Eliminate all sources of standing water on your property, including flowerpots, old car tires, rain gutters and pet bowls. Ensure that swimming pools, spas, and ponds are properly maintained.
5. **INOPERATIVE POOLS ANS SPAS:** **If your pool or spa is inoperative and still has any amount of water in it, the District will treat or plant mosquito fish in it at no cost. This service is confidential.** You can call for service or make arrangements to pick up free mosquito fish at the District by calling 310-915-7370.

Reporting & Picking Up Dead Birds: 1-877-WNV BIRD (1-877-968-2473):

The public is encouraged to report dead birds to help with West Nile virus surveillance and control efforts. Dead birds should be reported to the toll-free hotline number at **1-877-WNV BIRD (1-877-968-2473)**. Dead birds must be less than 24 hours old to be tested for West Nile virus. If the bird is rigid or decomposed, it cannot be used for testing.

Disposal of Dead Birds:

General Disposal: For birds that are too old, determined not to be in a condition to accurately test, or outside of the testing cycle, they can be disposed of in your normal weekly trash pickup by taking the following steps:

- 1) Take a plastic garbage bag and inserting your hand in the open end;
- 2) Grab the dead bird and pull it into the garbage bag using an "outside-to-inside" pulling motion;
- 3) Tie off the bag with the bird inside and place it in your regular trash for disposal.

District: Please note that the District **does not** pick up or disposed of dead birds that are not collected for testing.

Symptoms of West Nile virus:

People infected with WNV can experience a variety of symptoms that may include: no symptoms, West Nile Fever, or West Nile Neuroinvasive disease. Symptoms usually occur 3-12 days after infection. If you suspect you have contracted WNV, consult your physician for testing and care.

Symptoms of "West Nile Fever" can include:

- Headaches
- High fever
- Tiredness and body aches
- Skin rash and swollen lymph glands

(These symptoms may last from several days to several weeks)

Symptoms of "West Nile Neuroinvasive Disease" can include:

- Severe Headache
- High Fever
- Stiff neck
- Stupor
- Disorientation
- Tremors, convulsions, muscle weakness
- Paralysis and/or Coma (with possible long term or permanent damage to the brain)

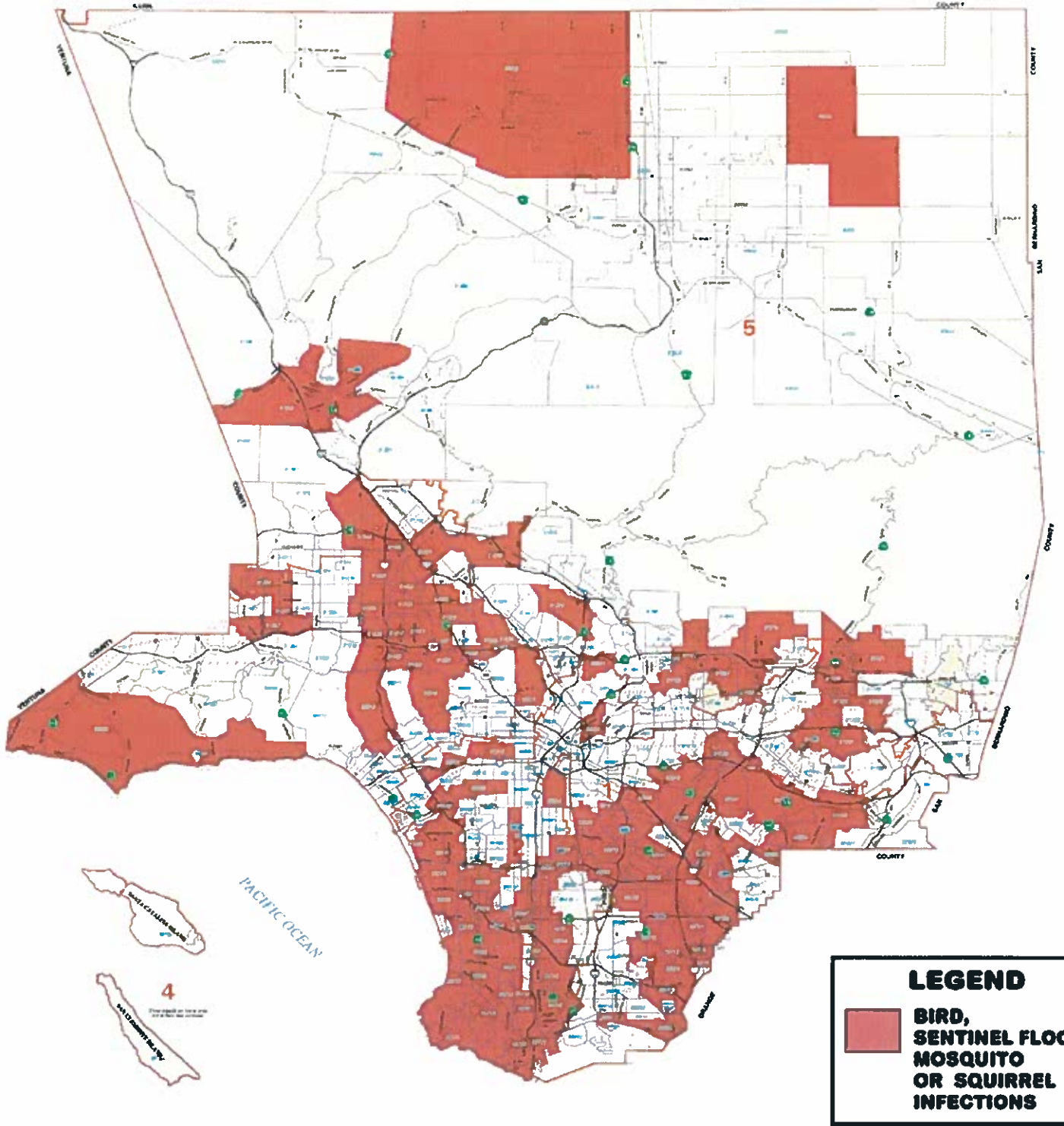
Important Numbers:

For mosquito problems or to pick up mosquito fish: Call 1-310-915-7370 Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

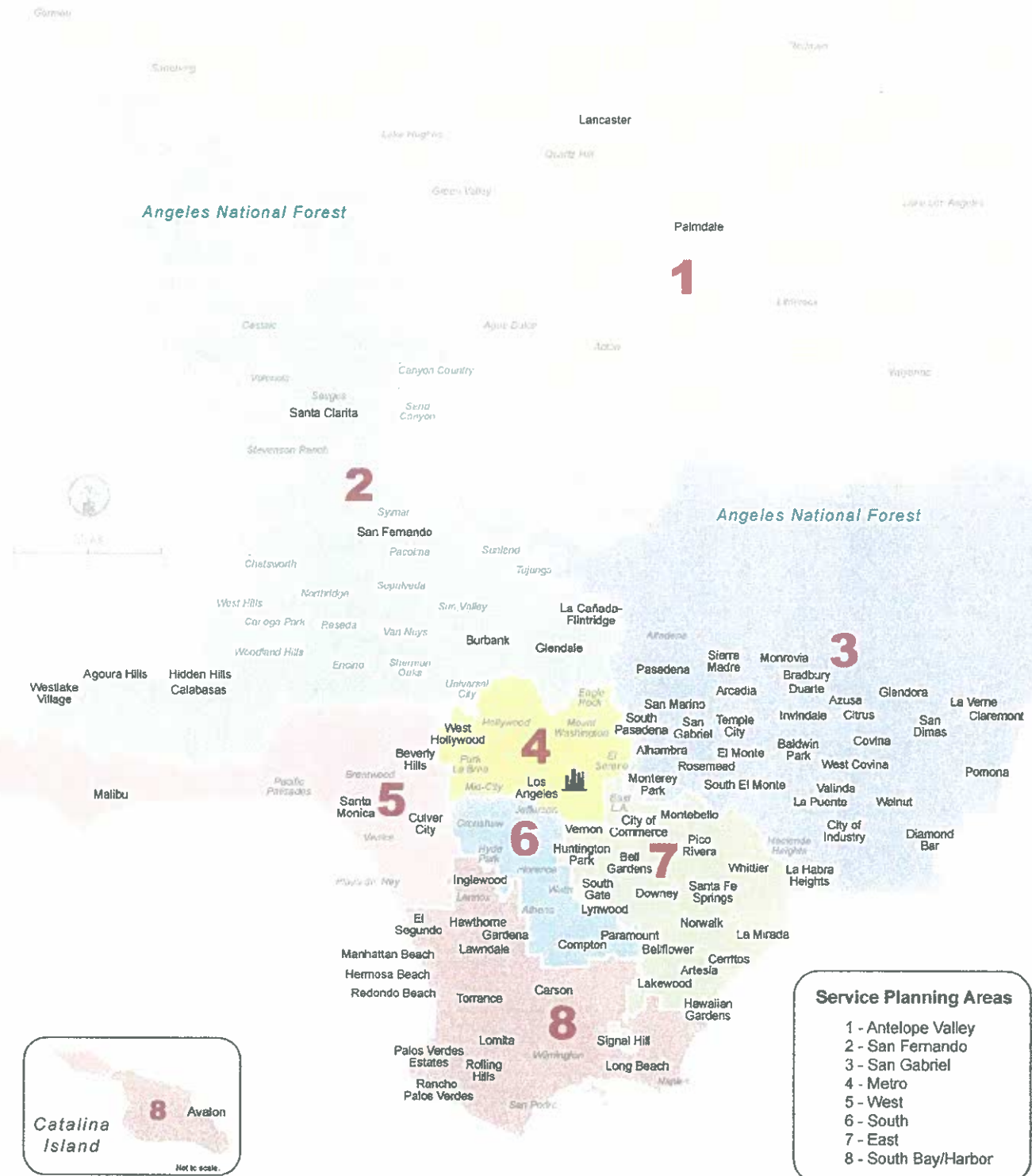
For additional information on WNV and the Los Angeles County West Vector & Vector-Borne Disease Control District: Please visit the District's website at www.lawestvector.org. New results are posted weekly.

Questions: If you have any questions, please contact Robert Saviskas, Executive Director, at (310) 915-7370 ext. 223 or at rsaviskas@lawestvector.org.

2013 WEST NILE VIRUS ACTIVITY LOS ANGELES COUNTY



Los Angeles County Service Planning Areas



Note: City names are shown in **BLACK**.
 Communities are shown in *GRAY italics*.