



EL SEGUNDO POLICE DEPARTMENT

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Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Fowl in El Segundo Tested Positive for West Nile Virus

According to Los Angeles County West Vector Control District, a fowl located in the City of El Segundo has tested positive for West Nile Virus (WNV) and they have issued a Public Health Warning. WNV is transmitted through the bite of an infected mosquito. Mosquitoes become infected when they first feed on birds that carry the virus, and then bite a human or animal.

What does it mean?

West Nile virus is endemic in Los Angeles County and California, and nationally has been found in all 50 states since its introduction into the United States in 1999.

Currently, 82 zip codes out of 361 located in the County of Los Angeles have recorded positives for WNV.

A positive result from a fowl and trapped adult mosquitoes are more specific with respect to the actual site of the infection, whereas positive dead birds are less specific with respect to the actual site of the infection.

Birds routinely travel many miles from their nighttime nesting locations to feed and scavenge during the day before they return to their original location in the evening. Although positive birds collected in a specific area are significant with respect to trends on a wider basis, it does not definitively identify a specific city, zip code, or location as the site where the actual mosquito bite and infection occurred because of the birds' extended daily travel patterns. A bird may travel and die as much as 1 to 10 miles away from the location where it was infected. A positive result from a fowl or trapped adult mosquitoes is more specific with respect to the actual location of the infection since they are site specific.

What should residents do?

People walking or sitting outside at dawn or dusk should take the appropriate precautions listed below to protect themselves from being bitten by infected mosquitoes.

Residents can protect themselves from WNV by doing the following:

- DEET - 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- DRAIN - 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. If you have an ornamental pond, use mosquito fish. You can make arrangements to pick up free mosquito fish at the District by calling 310-915-7370.

Reporting 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 able to test them for West Nile virus. If the bird is rigid or decomposed, it cannot be used for testing. Birds that are not in a condition to be tested can be disposed of in your normal weekly trash 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.

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 2-15 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 (often severe migraines)
- High fever
- Tiredness and body aches
- A 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
- Coma: This form of the disease can lead to long lasting and/or permanent damage to the brain.

For mosquito problems or to pick up mosquito fish, please 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 (www.lawestvector.org): Please visit the District’s website at www.lawestvector.org. WNV results and new positives are updated on a weekly basis.

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