



**Los Angeles County West Vector
& Vector-Borne Disease Control District**
6750 Centinela Avenue, Culver City CA 90230
Ph: 310-915-7370 ext. 223; Fax: 310-915-9148
Email: rsaviskas@lawestvector.org

Public Health Advisory

Two (2) Chickens from the Sentinel Flock Located at the Madrona Marsh have Tested Positive for West Nile Virus

This is to advise you that two (2) chickens from the Sentinel Flock located at the Madrona Marsh have tested positive for West Nile virus (WNV). This is in addition to the mosquitoes collected at marsh that were previously confirmed positive for WNV on August 12, 2011.

So far this year, there have been 96 separate zip codes in Los Angeles County that have recorded positive WNV results from either dead birds, trapped adult mosquitoes, or sentinel chicken flocks. WNV is endemic within Los Angeles County and all residents should always take the appropriate precautions listed below no matter where you reside or visit during the evening hours. A current list of positive zip codes is attached.

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.

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.

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 at 877-WNV BIRD (877-968-2473).

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.

Symptoms of West Nile Fever can include:

- Headaches (often severe migraines)
- High fever
- Tiredness and body aches
- Occasionally, 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 in some cases permanent damage to the brain.

For mosquito problems and to pick up mosquito fish, call (310) 915-7370.

If you have any questions, please contact Robert Saviskas, Executive Director, at (310) 915-7370 ext. 223 or at rsaviskas@lawestvector.org. Additional information about the Los Angeles County West Vector & Vector-Borne Disease Control District and West Nile virus can be obtained by visit: www.lawestvector.org.