

Our GOAL. . .

Our goal is to inform the public and increase awareness about the West Nile Virus. *Simple preventative measures*, education and information can help us in the fight against the West Nile Virus. In working together with the Los Angeles County Vector Control District, the California Department of Health Services and your local Community Preservation Division, we can help protect your family and pets from this deadly disease.

. . .To protect your family!



COMMUNITY PRESERVATION DIVISION

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GLENDORA POLICE DEPARTMENT

PREVENTING WEST NILE VIRUS



COMMUNITY PRESERVATION DIVISION

Robert M. Castro
Chief of Police

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

WEST NILE VIRUS (WNV) is a potentially serious illness that is transmitted by the female mosquito only. Experts say that WNV is a seasonal epidemic in North America that is most present from the beginning of summer and goes into the fall. The virus can infect humans, birds, horses and other mammals. It was first discovered in the United States during 1999. In California, WNV was detected in birds and mosquitoes in August 2003.

WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS OF WEST NILE VIRUS?

Symptoms may vary, but WNV affects the central nervous system. About 80 percent of people who are infected with WNV will show no symptoms at all. Nearly 20 percent of those infected will show mild symptoms, including fever, headaches, body aches, nausea, vomiting and sometimes swollen lymph glands. Skin rashes may occur on the chest, stomach and back, including high fever, headaches, neck stiffness, stupor, disorientation, coma, tremors, convulsions, muscle weakness, vision loss, numbness and paralysis.

These symptoms may last for weeks and may have permanent neurological effects. There is no specific treatment for the WNV infection. People develop symptoms generally between three to fourteen days after being bitten by an infected mosquito. Victims with severe symptoms should seek medical attention.

HOW DOES IT SPREAD?

Generally, WNV is spread through the bite of a mosquito which became infected while feeding on a wild bird that had the virus in its blood. The virus then continues to live in the mosquito and is transmitted to humans or animals through its bite. Humans and horses are “accidental hosts,” meaning that if they are bitten by a non-infected mosquito, the mosquito will not become infected. The virus is most active from May to October, when mosquitoes are most abundant.

PROTECTING YOUR FAMILY FROM WEST NILE VIRUS:

The best and easiest way to avoid WNV is to prevent mosquito bites. Mosquitoes are most active during dusk and dawn hours. Consider staying indoors or using repellents and wearing long sleeves and pants. This is important for the elderly and small

children who may have weaker immune systems. Make sure that your window and door screens are maintained to keep mosquitoes out. If you find a dead bird, particularly a crow, jay, magpie, or raven, do not touch it with your bare hands. If possible, contact the California Department of Health Services which will record the incident.

DOING YOUR PART FOR OUR COMMUNITY:

- Maintain swimming pools and spas by filtering, cleaning, and chlorinating on a weekly basis.
- Empty any containers that may hold water and clean birdbaths at least once a week.
- Stock ornamental ponds, fountains, and water gardens with mosquito fish and remove excess vegetation.
- Septic tanks should be sealed tightly to prevent mosquitoes from laying eggs.
- Check and clean rain gutters for debris.
- Avoid over-irrigating lawns, clear away any stagnant standing water.