



**For Immediate Release**  
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## **Second Probable West Nile Virus Case Investigated in County**

**One case is “probable,” one is “indeterminate;” other case tests are “negative”**

LOS ANGELES –The Los Angeles County Department of Health Services (DHS) reports a second probable case of West Nile Virus infection, however the individual is a Texas resident and health officials are confident he acquired the virus in Texas. The patient was visiting a relative in the county and became ill the day after arriving in Los Angeles.

Of the six cases being followed by the county health department, two are listed as “probable,” one is “indeterminate,” and three are negative. The two probable cases are a young adult woman who resides in the southwestern section of the county and an adult male who likely acquired the virus in Texas.

“The epidemiological evidence is very strong that our second ‘probable’ case did not acquire the virus in Los Angeles County,” said Jonathan Fielding, M.D., M.P.H., Public Health Director and County Health Officer. “There are no other cases in which we are awaiting test results.”

### **Background on West Nile Virus**

West Nile Virus is spread to humans from the bite of an infected mosquito. A mosquito is infected by biting a bird that carries the virus. The virus is NOT spread by person-to-person contact or directly from birds to humans. An investigation into possible West Nile Virus infection in organ transplant recipients is currently underway. Most mosquitoes do not carry the virus and most people bitten by a mosquito have not been exposed to the virus. To date, no positive mosquito pools or dead birds submitted for testing have had evidence of the virus. The public is encouraged to report if a recently dead bird (dead less than 24 hours) is found; contact 1-877-747-2243.

Less than one out of 150 people who are bitten by an infected mosquito get severely ill, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. In most cases people who are infected never become sick or have only very mild symptoms for a few days. The virus can in rare cases cause encephalitis and death. The elderly are most at risk for severe cases of the disease. There is no specific treatment for the West Nile Virus. In a serious case, an individual may be hospitalized to ensure good supportive care.

To reduce exposure to the virus, Dr. Fielding says residents should follow the general precautions as usual with all mosquito-borne diseases:

- Avoid mosquito-infested areas at dawn and dusk.
- Wear long-sleeved shirts and long pants whenever you are outdoors.
- Use insect repellent products with no more than 35 % DEET for adults and less than 10% for children.
- Ensure your windows have screens that do not have holes.
- Do not allow water to stagnate in old tires, flowerpots, trash, swimming pools, birdbaths, pet bowls, etc.
- Clean and chlorinate swimming pools; drain water from pool covers.
- Stock garden ponds with goldfish or mosquito fish. They eat the mosquito eggs and larvae.
- Empty and wash birdbaths and wading pools weekly.

The West Nile Virus was first identified in the United States in New York City in 1999. More information is available on the DHS website at [www.ladhs.org](http://www.ladhs.org).

**Where to call with questions about mosquitoes**

Greater Los Angeles County Vector Control District (562) 944-9656

Los Angeles County West Vector Control District (310) 915-7370

San Gabriel Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District (626) 814-9466

Antelope Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District (661) 942-2917

Compton Creek Mosquito Abatement District (310) 639-7375

**The county health department has established a toll-free hotline that will provide callers with updated information on West Nile Virus within the county. The hotline is: 1-800-975-4448.**

Public Health is committed to protecting and improving the health of the nearly 10 million residents of Los Angeles County. Through a variety of programs, community partnerships and services, Public Health oversees environmental health, disease control and community and family health and comprises more than 3,800 employees with an annual budget exceeding \$465 million.