

**For Immediate Release:
August 4, 2008**

MULTI-AGENCY PRESS CONFERENCE ADVISORY:

West Nile Virus Risk for Southern California Residents Highest Since 2004 Epidemic; Local Mosquito & Vector Control Agencies Band Together to Combat Threat; Residents Must Cooperate to Eliminate Backyard Sources and Protect Against Mosquito Bites

WHAT: Southern California is leading the State in West Nile virus activity. Hundreds of dead birds and mosquito samples collected throughout the State's southern region have tested positive for the virus. So far this year, 566 dead birds and 316 mosquito samples have been confirmed positive for West Nile virus in Southern California. The level of virus activity outpaces that of recent years and the risk of human infection in Southern California is the highest it has been since the region's 2004 epidemic. Preventative measures taken by both mosquito and vector control districts and the public are critical to reducing the risks of the disease.

A joint press conference hosted by vector control agencies in Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside and San Bernardino counties will be held to discuss efforts to combat mosquito populations and reduce West Nile virus disease transmission. Officials from local mosquito and vector control agencies will discuss residents' responsibilities to eliminate backyard mosquito breeding sources and outline how they can protect themselves from mosquitoes and another outbreak of this potentially deadly virus. Local public health agency officials will be available to answer questions about human cases.

WHEN: **Tuesday, August 5, 2008
1:00 p.m.**

WHERE: **Orange County Vector Control District
13001 Garden Grove Blvd.
Garden Grove, CA 92843**

For directions to the District, please contact:
Michael Hearst, Dir. of Communications
Orange County Vector Control District
(714) 971-2421

Participating Agencies:

Los Angeles County Department of Public Health
Antelope Valley Mosquito & Vector Control
Compton Creek Mosquito Abatement District
Greater Los Angeles County Vector Control District
Long Beach Health Department
Los Angeles County West Vector Control District
Northwest Mosquito & Vector Control District

Orange County Health Care Agency
Orange County Vector Control District
Riverside County Department of Environmental Health
San Bernardino County Vector Control Program
San Gabriel Valley Mosquito & Vector Control District
West Valley Mosquito & Vector Control District

Visit www.westmile.ca.gov to contact your local vector control agency.