NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

FIGHT THE BITE. WEST NILE SAFETY.

West Nile virus is active in LA County this fall — small habits protect our neighbors.

The virus is spread by *Culex* mosquitoes, which breed in standing water and bite mostly at dusk and dawn. LA County is seeing its most human cases in nearly a decade, and a West Nile-positive bird was found in Torrance this summer. Mosquito season runs into November — so do the yard check below, and know what to watch for.

KNOW YOUR MOSQUITO

Photos: CDC



Culex

WEST NILE CARRIER

Plain brown. Bites dusk to dawn, anywhere on the body.



Aedes

THE ANKLE BITER

Black & white stripes. Bites by day, mostly ankles. Not a West Nile carrier.

PREVENT

- **Dump standing water** every week — even a bottle cap holds enough
- Use **EPA-registered repellent** (DEET, picaridin, or oil of lemon eucalyptus)
- Cover up with **long sleeves and pants** at dusk and dawn
- Repair torn **door and window screens**

WATCH FOR SYMPTOMS

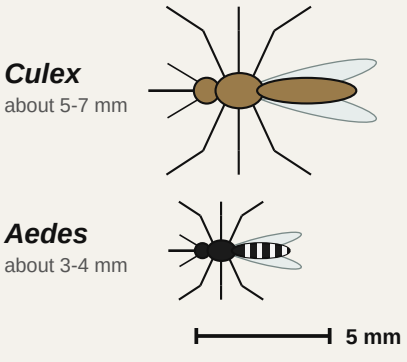
- Most people (about 4 in 5) have **no symptoms**
- Some get **fever, headache, body aches, vomiting, or rash**, usually 3–14 days after a bite
- **Higher risk:** adults over 50 and anyone with chronic health conditions
- **Get care right away** for severe headache, stiff neck, confusion, weakness, or seizures

5-MINUTE YARD & PATIO CHECK

Do it once a week — mosquitoes can hatch in as little as a week.

- ☐ **Plant saucers & pots**
  Empty and scrub them. Drill drain holes in anything that holds water.
- ☐ **Buckets, toys & trash can lids**
  Flip, cover, or store them upside down after rain or watering.
- ☐ **Gutters, drains & low spots**
  Clear clogs so water doesn't pool — also smart prep before the winter rains.
- ☐ **Pet bowls & bird baths**
  Dump and refill with fresh water at least weekly.
- ☐ **Dead bird?**
  Don't touch it. Report it to the state — it helps track the virus.
  westnile.ca.gov/report or 1-877-WNV-BIRD

SIZE COMPARISON



Top view, drawn to the same scale.

Sources: LA County Dept. of Public Health (WNV report, Sept 18, 2026); CA Dept. of Public Health; Greater LA County Vector Control District.

DUMP IT. COVER IT. PROTECT IT.

Questions? Neighborhood Watch meets the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 4:00 pm in the Lounge. Always check the calendar for changes.

Join us on Nextdoor

Report a dead bird

Organized by neighbors, for neighbors.