



## PUBLIC HEALTH WEEK

April 1 - 5, 2019

### DAY 5: West Nile Virus Awareness Day

Joslyn Adult Center 1301 West Olive Avenue, Burbank

April 5, 8:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

#### The Risks of West Nile Virus

West Nile virus (WNV) is spread by bites of infected mosquitoes during warm weather months when mosquitoes are most active. Everyone is at risk for WNV, but most people infected with it never develop symptoms or will experience flu-like symptoms.



However, people over age 50 and those with health problems are at greater risk of serious illness and even death when infected with WNV.

In 2017, there were 268 confirmed cases of WNV and 27 WNV-related deaths. In 2018, both cases and deaths decreased, with 47 cases and 3 deaths.

#### Protecting LA County from West Nile Virus

There is currently no vaccine or treatment against WNV. The most effective ways to prevent infection from West Nile virus is to prevent mosquito bites and reduce mosquito breeding sources. It is important to use insect repellent and if possible wear long-sleeved shirts and pants to protect from mosquito bites. It is also important to check homes and yards once a week for items that can hold standing water where mosquitoes can breed such as flower pots, saucers, old tires, kids toys etc. and clean, cover or clear them out. Other precautions include ensuring swimming pools are clean and chlorinated, and window and door screens don't have holes.

DPH collaborates closely with local vector control agencies in the county to reduce the burden of infected mosquitoes and target areas for mosquito control activities. The DPH partners with vector

control agencies, cities and local authorities to educate residents on the risks of WNV and ways to prevent mosquito-borne illness. There are guidelines for communities to use to identify and reduce mosquito breeding sites in and around homes and neighborhoods. This information is distributed as both print materials and social media posts throughout WNV season, from June-November each year.

#### West Nile Virus Awareness Day

On April 5, 2019, the LA County Department of Public Health will host a West Nile Virus Awareness Day at Joslyn Adult Center, 1301 West Olive Avenue, Burbank at 8:30 am. The interactive event, 'Breakfast and Bingo' will invite older adults, the population that is most vulnerable to serious illness from WNV, to learn more about the disease and protective strategies. The event aims to raise awareness and knowledge about WNV and promote prevention in a fun environment through a series of activities including bingo, spin wheel and a wellness exercise with a giant mosquito in costume. The event is in partnership with the Greater Los Angeles Vector Control District.

For more information please visit our website:

<http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/acd/vectorwestnile.htm>

Educational materials at:

<http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/acd/WNVMaterials.htm>