

# LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

## PEST OF THE MONTH PROGRAM NO. 29

### CURRENT INFORMATION ON MOSQUITOES AND WEST NILE VIRUS

So far for the year 2006, seven dead birds have tested positive for West Nile Virus in California. These birds were from Sacramento, Santa Clara, San Diego, and Orange counties.

Mosquitoes have always been a nuisance in California but with the arrival of West Nile Virus, they are now a serious health threat. Mosquitoes are the main vectors of West Nile Virus, a debilitating disease which can be fatal to people, horses, and certain species of birds, for example, crows.

As you are aware, we have been experiencing rains late in the season in March 2006. This means that we are going to have stagnant water in many places. We are now in early spring (March 22) and the weather is going to warm up soon. Stagnant water combined with warm temperatures creates ideal breeding conditions for mosquitoes. Because of a combination of favorable weather conditions, we are likely to see greater numbers of mosquitoes this year. As such, we are going to have to increase our vigilance with respect to preventing mosquitoes from breeding at schools and other District properties.

### “FIGHT THE BITE” HANDOUTS

To assist the public in protecting themselves from West Nile Virus, California Department of Pesticide Regulation has created three “Fight the Bite” handouts. The titles of these are:

- **Don’t grow your own mosquitoes – a home and garden checklist**
- **Protect your family – use a repellent**
- **Protecting outdoor workers from mosquitoes**

These handouts can be located at DPR web site at <http://www.schoolipm.info>. Because this web site is somewhat difficult to navigate, the Los Angeles Unified School District is posting these handouts on our web site to make them easily accessible to you. These handouts are now a part of our Pest of the Month Program No.29.

These handouts contain useful information to help protect you, your family, and people at schools from mosquito bites and possible West Nile Virus illness. Please take some time to review this information. These handouts are easy to read and understand. Share the information with others. Use this information to check your home and yard to make sure that you are not “growing” mosquitoes and putting your neighbors at risk.

Thank you for your cooperation on this important matter.

### **A WORD OF CAUTION**

**NEITHER I NOR THE LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT RECOMMEND AND/OR ENDORSE ANY MOSQUITO REPELLENT. IF YOU CHOOSE TO USE ANY OF THESE PRODUCTS, PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU READ THE ENTIRE LABEL AND FOLLOW ALL LABEL DIRECTIONS.**

**IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS ABOUT INSECT REPELLENTS, PLEASE CONSULT YOUR MEDICAL DOCTOR.**

Prepared by Hanif Gulmahamad, Ph.D., B.C.E., Urban and Structural Entomologist  
Date: 22 March, 2006.