Guidelines for Dead Bird Disposal

If you have found a dead bird on your property, please contact the California Department of Health Services by calling toll free **1-877-WNV-BIRD (1-877-968-2473)** to report the dead bird, or you may submit the information via the web site http://westnile.ca.gov/report_wnv.php

If you are instructed to dispose of the dead bird, please follow these guidelines:

- Avoid touching the dead bird with your bare hands. Ensure that your clothing does not come in contact with the dead bird or any blood, secretions or feces from the dead bird.

- Use gloves or multiple heavy-duty plastic bags to pick up the dead bird.

- Grasp the dead bird with your hand inside the plastic bags. Turn the plastic bags inside-out over the dead bird so the dead bird is now inside the plastic bags and your hands are on the outside of the plastic bags. Be sure that the beak or claws do not puncture the bags.

- Place the bagged bird carcass in a leak-proof plastic bag and seal the bag.

- Place the sealed bag in another leak-proof plastic bag and tightly seal. The bird carcass is now "double-bagged".

- Dispose of the "double-bagged" bird carcass by placing it in a trash container. Ensure that the trash container is secure from children and animals while awaiting pickup from your refuse company.

- WASH YOUR HANDS thoroughly with warm water and soap after disposal. If you wore gloves to dispose of the dead bird, wash your gloved hands and then wash your bare hands thoroughly after you have removed the gloves.

There is currently no evidence that the West Nile Virus can be transmitted to humans that have taken precautions when handling dead birds.

Promotion, preservation and protection of the community's health
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