



PRESS RELEASE
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ADVISORY ON SAINT LOUIS ENCEPHALITIS

The Philippine Consulate General wishes to inform Filipino-Americans in Southern California that the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (LACDPH) has issued a press release on the first human case of Saint Louis Encephalitis (SLEV) in Los Angeles County since 1997.

The patient is an elderly resident of San Fernando Valley who became ill in late August 2018.

According to LACDPH, the environmental monitoring for SLEV virus in Los Angeles County began in early spring, and to-date, one mosquito sample from Playa Vista has tested positive for the virus.

SLEV is transmitted to people through the bite of an infected mosquito. SLEV virus is similar to West Nile virus. It can affect the nervous system, result in infections of the brain and cause paralysis and death. Generally, people infected with SLEV virus have no or mild symptoms.

People over 50 years of age or individuals with lowered immune systems are at greater risk of experiencing severe symptoms when infected. Symptoms of severe disease include fever, headache, stiff neck, confusion and decreased alertness.

There is no vaccine to prevent SLEV and only supportive treatment is available. Anyone with symptoms should contact their healthcare provider.

The Philippine Consulate General echoes the warning of U.S. authorities for the public to protect themselves by using EPA-registered repellent to keep mosquitos from biting and check for items that collect standing water in the homes or yards where mosquitoes can breed.

For more information please contact the Public Health Communications at (213) 240-8144 or at email media@ph.lacounty.gov, or click on the following link: <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/phcommon/public/media/mediapubhpdetail.cfm?prid=1929>. END.