

California Arbovirus Surveillance Bulletin # 16

Week 23 Friday, June 9, 2006

Weekly Summary

COMMENTS

Humans

No human infections have been reported in 2006.

Horses

No equine infections have been reported in 2006 by the California Department of Food & Agriculture.

Dead Birds

No WNV positive dead birds were reported this week.

In 2006, 24 out of 1,707 (1.4%) dead birds have tested positive for WNV from seven counties: Orange (13); Sacramento (2); San Diego (2); San Mateo (1); Santa Clara (4); Shasta (1); and Ventura (1).

The hotline has received a total of 14,290 dead bird reports this year.

Mosquito Pools

CVEC reported two WNV positive mosquito pools this week from Merced and Riverside counties. This is the first indication of WNV activity this year in Merced County.

In 2006, ten mosquito pools have tested positive for WNV from three counties: Los Angeles (3); Merced (1); and Riverside (6).

Sentinel Chickens

No serconversions were reported this week. In 2006, one WNV seroconversion has been reported from Los Angeles County.

Website Information

For updated information on WNV, please visit the California WNV website, www.westnile.ca.gov, the CDC website, www.cdc.gov, and the USGS website, www.westnilemaps.usgs.gov. Please go to the Vector website at <http://vector.ucdavis.edu/arbo.html> for flock location and more information on WNV and other vector-borne diseases.

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TEST SUMMARIES

Humans and Horses

		Number Tested	WNV Positive		WEE Positive		SLE Positive		Other Positive	
			Imported	Local	Imported	Local	Imported	Local	Imported	Local
Humans Tested	Week	24	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	YTD	489	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Horses Tested	Week	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	YTD	143	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Dead Birds

	Number Tested	WNV Positive
Week	66	0
YTD	1707	24

Sentinel Chickens* and Mosquito Pools

		Number Tested	WNV Positive	WEE Positive	SLE Positive	Other Positive
	YTD	9374	1	0	0	0
Mosquito pools	Week	783	2	0	0	0
	YTD	3630	10	0	0	0

*Total has been adjusted to include local agency submission

Mosquito pools tested by local agencies

		Number Tested	WNV Positive	WEE Positive	SLE Positive	Other Positive
	YTD	738	0	0	0	0
RAMP	Week	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A
	YTD	22	0	--	--	--

POSITIVES

Virus Isolations from Mosquito Pools

Virus	Species	Agency Code	County	City	Pool #	Collected	Tested
WN	Cx pipiens	MERC	Merced	Hilmar	65	6/1/06	6/9/06
WN	Cx quinquefasciatus	COAV	Riverside	Mecca	5031	5/30/06	6/9/06

National Comments: As of May 30, 2006, avian, animal or mosquito West Nile virus (WNV) activity has been detected in seven states: Arkansas, California, Florida, Mississippi, Missouri, Texas, and West Virginia. Mississippi has reported one human case, while Texas has reported two human cases. All 3 cases have been neuroinvasive disease cases (i.e., meningitis or encephalitis). No fatalities have been reported in 2006.

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TEST PROTOCOLS

Dead Birds:

All bird species from all zip codes are currently being accepted for testing unless otherwise requested by a local agency. Additionally, once WNV has been detected within a county, doves, pigeons, and chickens will no longer be accepted for testing from that county. Corvids that test positive via RAMP or VecTest are no longer confirmed. Dead birds are necropsied at the California Animal Health and Food Safety (CAHFS) laboratory at UC Davis. Oral swabs from American Crows and kidney tissue from all other dead birds are forward to the UC Davis Center for Vectorborne Diseases (CVEC) for WNV testing using the singleplex RT-PCR Taqman assay and confirmed with a second primer set. The WNV Dead Bird Surveillance Coordinator, Ryan Carney, can be reached directly at (510) 412-6254.

Sentinel Chickens:

Dried blood spot specimens from sentinel chickens submitted each week to the DHS Viral and Rickettsial Disease Laboratory (VRDL) are tested for the presence of antibodies to West Nile virus (WNV), western equine encephalomyelitis (WEE), and St. Louis encephalitis (SLE) viruses by EIA and IFA. The VRDL performs additional testing, including plaque reduction neutralization (PRNT), on specimens from sentinel chickens from geographic areas where WNV is detected for the first time.

Mosquito Pools:

All mosquito pools are screened for WEE, SLE, and WNV viral RNA using a Taqman multiplex RT-PCR. CVEC will cease confirmation testing on PCR-positive pools of *Cx. tarsalis* and *Cx. quinquefasciatus* but will continue to confirm multiplex PCR-positive results for other mosquito species using singleplex RT-PCR.

Prepared by the Vector-Borne Disease Section (Infectious Diseases Branch) and the Viral and Rickettsial Disease Laboratory Branch, Division of Communicable Disease Control, California Department of Health Services, 850 Marina Bay Parkway, Richmond, CA 94804. Questions concerning this bulletin should be addressed to Tina Albrecht by phone (510) 412-6298, FAX (510) 412-6263, or email [talbrech@dhs.ca.gov].