

California Arbovirus Surveillance Bulletin # 17

Week 24 Friday, June 16, 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

This week, four out of 164 (2.4%) dead birds collected from 38 counties tested positive for WNV.

- 2/150 dead birds tested positive via RT-PCR.
- 2/14 dead birds tested positive via IHC.

In 2006, 28 out of 1,863 (1.5%) dead birds have tested positive for WNV from eight counties: Orange (15); Sacramento (3); San Diego (2); San Mateo (1); Santa Clara (4); Shasta (1); Ventura (1); and Yuba (1).

The hotline has received a total of 15,568 dead bird reports this year.

Mosquito Pools

No positive mosquito pools were reported this week.

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

Sentinel Chickens

VRDL reported 2 chickens from a flock in Palmdale (Los Angeles County) tested flavivirus positive. The lab will conduct further tests to confirm whether the virus is SLE or WNV.

In 2006, one WNV and two flavivirus seroconversions have 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	42	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	YTD	531	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Horses Tested	Week	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	YTD	168	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Dead Birds

	Number Tested	WNV Positive
Week	164	4
YTD	1863	28

Sentinel Chickens* and Mosquito Pools

		Number Tested	WNV Positive	WEE Positive	SLE Positive	Flavivirus Positive
	YTD	10,214	1	0	0	3
Mosquito pools	Week	783	0	0	0	0
	YTD	4413	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	918	0	0	0	0
RAMP	Week	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A
	YTD	22	0	--	--	--

POSITIVES

Sentinel Chicken Seroconversions

Virus	Agency Code	County	Nearest City	Probable Seroconversion Date	BAND #
Flavivirus	ANTV7947	Los Angeles	Palmdale	5/31/06	1062
Flavivirus	ANTV7947	Los Angeles	Palmdale	5/31/06	1063

WNV Positive Dead Birds

Species	County	City	Zip Code	Date Collected	Date Tested	Tested By
American Crow	Yuba	Marysville	95901	6/6/06	6/12/06	RT-PCR
American Crow	Orange	Santa Ana	92703	5/25/06	6/9/06	IHC
American Crow	Orange	Laguna Hills	92653	6/1/06	6/9/06	IHC
Western Scrub-Jay	Sacramento	Antelope	95843	6/1/06	6/12/06	RT-PCR

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National Comments: As of June 13, 2006, West Nile virus (WNV) activity has been detected in the following states: Arkansas, California, Florida, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, New York, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, West Virginia, and Wyoming. Human cases have been reported in Colorado, Mississippi, and Texas. No fatalities have been reported in 2006.

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].