

California Arbovirus Surveillance Bulletin # 5

Week 9 Friday, March 3, 2006

Weekly Summary

Comments

Humans:

No human cases have been reported in 2006.

Horses:

The California Department of Food & Agriculture has reported no new case of equine WNV this year.

Dead Birds:

In the last two weeks, the hotline has received 789 dead bird reports for a YTD total of 2800 reports. Three out of 92 dead birds collected from 23 counties tested positive for WNV.

- 0/78 (0%) dead birds tested positive via RT-PCR.
- 2/3 (66.7%) dead birds tested positive via VecTest.
- 0/0 (0%) dead birds tested positive via RAMP.
- 1/11 (9.1%) dead birds tested positive via IHC.

The WNV positive dead birds were collected from the following counties: Orange (1); San Diego (1); and Santa Clara (1). **This is the first indication of WNV activity in 2006 in Orange and San Diego counties.**

The following bird species tested positive for WNV: American crow (2); and western scrub-jay (1). See "WNV Positive Dead Birds" table for details.

Since January 1, 2006, five out of 282 (1.8%) dead birds have tested positive for WNV.

Mosquito Pools:

CVEC has reported no positive mosquito pools thus far this year.

Sentinel Chickens: WNV: VRDL has reported no seroconversions so far this year.

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 for 2006

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	155	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Horses Tested	Week	N/a	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	YTD	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Dead Birds

	Number Tested	WNV Positive
Week	78	3
YTD	282	5

Sentinel Chickens and Mosquito Pools*

		Number Tested	WNV Positive	WEE Positive	SLE Positive	Other Positive
	YTD	566	0	0	0	0
Mosquito pools	Week	118	0	0	0	0
	YTD	440	0	0	0	0

*Total has been adjusted to include local agency submission

WNV Positive Dead Birds Reported (February 20- March 3)

Species	County	City	Zip Code	Date Collected	Date Tested	Tested By
American Crow	Orange	Mission Viejo	92691	2/4/06	2/4/06	IHC
American Crow	Santa Clara	Santa Clara	95051	2/15/06	2/15/06	VecTest
Western Scrub-jay	San Diego	Valley Center	92082	2/21/06	2/21/06	VecTest

No new national update.

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TEST PROTOCOLS

Dead Birds:

All bird species, except chickens, doves, and pigeons, from all zip codes are currently being accepted for testing unless otherwise requested by a local agency. Positive RAMP and Vec-Tests from oral swabs from corvids are no longer confirmed. Other bird species are tested by singleplex RT-PCR and confirmed with a second primer set.

Dead birds are necropsied at the California Animal Health and Food Safety (CAHFS) Laboratories and kidney tissue from the dead birds are forward to the UC Davis Center for Vectorborne Diseases (CVEC) for WNV using the PCR Taqman assay. Organ pools from PCR positive carcasses are tested using cell culture for virus isolation. 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. The VRDL also forwards selected serum to CVEC for additional testing for WNV, WEE, and SLE antibodies as needed.

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 Al Hom by phone (510) 412-6252, FAX (510) 412-6263, or email [ahom@dhs.ca.gov].