

# California Arbovirus Surveillance Bulletin # 8

Week 15 Friday, April 14, 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:**

In the last two weeks, the hotline has received 917 dead bird reports for a YTD total of 6,001 reports. One out of 171 (0.6%) dead birds collected from 32 counties tested positive for WNV.

- 1/170 dead birds tested positive via RT-PCR.
- 0/1 dead birds tested positive via VecTest.
- 0/0 dead birds tested positive via RAMP.
- 0/0 dead birds tested positive via IHC.

The WNV positive dead bird was a red-shouldered hawk collected from Sacramento County. See "WNV Positive Dead Birds" table for details.

Since January 1, 2006, 11 out of 727 (1.5%) dead birds have tested positive for WNV from four counties: Orange (4); Sacramento (2); San Diego (1); and Santa Clara (4).

#### **Mosquito Pools:**

CVEC has reported no positive mosquito pools in 2006.

#### **Sentinel Chickens:**

VRDL has reported no seroconversions in 2006.

#### **Website Information:**

For updated information on WNV, please visit the California WNV website, [www.westnile.ca.gov](http://www.westnile.ca.gov), the CDC website, [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov), and the USGS website, [www.westnilemaps.usgs.gov](http://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	44	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	YTD	302	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Horses Tested	Week	22	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	YTD	91	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

### Dead Birds

	Number Tested	WNV Positive
Week	171	1
YTD	727	11

### Sentinel Chickens\* and Mosquito Pools

		Number Tested	WNV Positive	WEE Positive	SLE Positive	Other Positive
Chicken sera	Week	943	0	0	0	0
	YTD	1824	0	0	0	0
Mosquito pools	Week	171	0	0	0	0
	YTD	752	0	0	0	0

\*Total has been adjusted to include local agency submission

### WNV Positive Dead Birds Reported (April 3- April 14)

Species	County	City	Zip Code	Date Collected	Date Tested	Tested By
Red-shouldered Hawk	Sacramento	Sacramento	95864	3/24/06	4/10/06	RT-PCR

No new national update.

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## TEST PROTOCOLS

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### **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.

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### **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.

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### **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.

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*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].*