

California Arbovirus Surveillance Bulletin # 14

Week 21 Friday, May 26, 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, the hotline received 1,113 dead bird reports for a YTD total of 12,901 reports. Zero out of 76 dead birds collected from 24 counties tested positive for WNV.

- 0/75 dead birds tested positive via RT-PCR.
- 0/0 dead birds tested positive via VecTest.
- 0/1 dead birds tested positive via RAMP.
- 0/0 dead birds tested positive via IHC.

In 2006, 19 out of 1560 (1.2%) dead birds have tested positive for WNV from six counties: Orange (10); Sacramento (2); San Diego (1); San Mateo (1); Santa Clara (4); and Ventura (1).

Mosquito Pools

No positive mosquito pools were reported this week. In 2006, eight mosquito pools have tested positive for WNV from two counties: Los Angeles (3); and Riverside (5).

Sentinel Chickens

VRDL reported a chicken from a flock in Lancaster (Los Angeles County) tested positive for WNV. This is the first WNV seroconversion among sentinel chickens in 2006.

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	18	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	YTD	446	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Horses Tested	Week	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	YTD	135	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Dead Birds

	Number Tested	WNV Positive
Week	76	0
YTD	1560	19

Sentinel Chickens* and Mosquito Pools

		Number Tested	WNV Positive	WEE Positive	SLE Positive	Other Positive
	YTD	7447	1	0	0	0
Mosquito pools	Week	499	0	0	0	0
	YTD	2543	8	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	418	0	0	0	0	
RAMP	Week	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A
	YTD	22	0	--	--	--

POSITIVES

Chicken Seroconversions

Virus	Agency Code	County	Nearest City	Location	Probable Seroconversion Date	BAND #
WN	ANTV3247	Los Angeles	Lancaster	Fairgrounds	5/3/06	1034

National Comments: As of May 16, 2006, avian, animal or mosquito West Nile virus (WNV) activity has been detected in California, Florida, and Missouri. One human case has been reported from Mississippi.

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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].