

# California Arbovirus Surveillance Bulletin # 11

Week 18 Thursday, May 6, 2010

## Weekly Summary

### WEEKLY COMMENTS



#### **Humans**

No human cases have been reported in 2010.

#### **Horses**

No equine cases have been reported in 2010.

#### **Dead Birds & Tree Squirrels**

No positive dead birds or tree squirrels were reported this week. In 2010, 2 recently-infected\* West Nile virus (WNV) positive dead birds have been reported from Los Angeles County. In addition, 5 other birds from Butte (2), Los Angeles (1), Sacramento (1) and San Joaquin (1) have tested positive for chronic infection with WNV.

At this time last year, 11 birds from four counties (Fresno, Los Angeles, Orange, and San Diego) had tested positive for WNV. Year-to-date totals from last year and previous years include both recent and chronic infections.

*\*In 2010, The University of California, Center for Vectorborne Diseases (CVEC) and the California Department of Public Health, Vector-Borne Disease Section has begun differentiating between chronic and acute infections in West Nile virus positive dead birds. Birds considered to have chronic infection with WNV are unlikely to have been infected recently with WNV and have limited surveillance utility.*

#### **Mosquito Pools**

No positive mosquito pools have been reported in 2010. At this time last year, 12 WNV positive mosquito pools had been reported from two counties (Los Angeles and Contra Costa).

#### **Sentinel Chickens**

No seroconversions have been reported in 2010. At this time last year, 3 WNV positive chickens from Los Angeles County had been reported.

#### **YTD WNV Activity by Element and County, 2010**

County	Humans	Horses	Dead Birds <sup>^</sup>	Mosquito Pools	Sentinel Chickens	Squirrels
Los Angeles			2			
<b>Totals</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

<sup>^</sup> Chronic infections are not included in county totals.

**Website Information:** For updated information on WNV in California, please visit the California WNV website, [www.westnile.ca.gov](http://www.westnile.ca.gov), or the California Vectorborne Disease Surveillance System website, [www.calsurv.org](http://www.calsurv.org). For national information on WNV and other arboviruses, please visit the CDC website, [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov), and the USGS website, [www.westnilemaps.usgs.gov](http://www.westnilemaps.usgs.gov).

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2009 & 2010 YTD West Nile Virus Comparisons		
	2009	2010
Total # Dead Bird Reports	3,658	1,736
# Positive Counties	5	1
# Human Cases	0	0
# Horse Cases	0	0
# Positive Dead Birds / # Tested	11 / 475	2 / 296
# Positive Mosquito Pools / # Tested	12 / 2,481	0 / 2,579
# Seroconversions / # Tested	3 / 3,363	0 / 2,953
# Positive Squirrels / # Tested	0 / 13	0 / 9

## TEST SUMMARIES

### Human & Horse Cases

		Number Tested	WNV		WEE		SLE		Other	
			Imported	Local	Imported	Local	Imported	Local	Imported	Local
Humans Tested*	Week	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	YTD	249	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Horses Tested	Week	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	YTD	51	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

### Dead Birds & Tree Squirrels

		Number Tested	WNV Positive (recent only)
Dead Birds	Week	70	0
	YTD	296	2
Tree Squirrels	Week	1	0
	YTD	9	0

### Sentinel Chickens & Mosquito Pools

		Number Tested	WNV Positive	SLE Positive	WEE Positive
Chicken Sera	Week	703	0	0	0
	YTD	2,953	0	0	0
Mosquito Pools: RT-PCR	Week	481	0	0	0
	YTD	2,502	0	0	0
Mosquito Pools: RAMP	Week	18	0	N/A	N/A
	YTD	77	0	N/A	N/A

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## TEST PROTOCOLS

### **Humans:**

Specimens are tested by local laboratories with an IgM or IgG immunofluorescent assay (IFA) and/or an IgM enzyme immunoassay (EIA). Specimens with inconclusive results are forwarded to the California Department of Public Health Viral and Rickettsial Disease Laboratory (VRDL) for further testing or confirmation by plaque reduction neutralization test (PRNT).

\*Human denominator data only includes specimens tested at VRDL and does not include additional negative specimens that are tested by local agencies only.

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### **Horses:**

Serum or brain tissue specimens from horses displaying neurological symptoms are submitted to the California Animal Health and Safety Laboratory (CAHFS) and tested by EIA and PRNT.

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### **Dead Birds and Tree Squirrels:**

Dead birds and tree squirrels are necropsied at CAHFS laboratory at University of California, Davis. Oral swabs from American Crows and kidney tissue from all other dead birds and squirrels are forwarded to the UC Davis Center for Vectorborne Diseases (CVEC) for West Nile virus testing using the singleplex RT-PCR Taqman assay and confirmed with a second primer set. The WNV Dead Bird Surveillance Coordinator, Erin Parker, can be reached directly at (510) 412-6254.

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### **Sentinel Chickens:**

Dried blood spot specimens from sentinel chickens are submitted to the California Department of Public Health Vector-Borne Disease Laboratory and tested for the presence of antibodies to West Nile, western equine encephalomyelitis (WEE), and St. Louis encephalitis (SLE) viruses by EIA and IFA. Positive samples are confirmed by western-blot or PRNT.

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### **Mosquito Pools:**

Mosquito pools are submitted to CVEC and 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), California Department of Public Health, 850 Marina Bay Parkway, Richmond, CA 94804. Questions concerning this bulletin should be addressed to Tina Feiszli by phone (510) 412-6253 or email: [tina.feiszli@cdph.ca.gov](mailto:tina.feiszli@cdph.ca.gov)*

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