

California Arbovirus Surveillance Bulletin # 9

Week 15 Friday, April 15, 2011

Weekly Summary

WEEKLY COMMENTS



Humans

No human cases have been reported in 2011.

Horses

No equine cases have been reported in 2011.

Dead Birds & Squirrels

No positive birds or squirrels were reported this week. To date this year, one West Nile virus (WNV) positive dead bird from Sacramento County has been reported, and 9 birds have tested positive for chronic WNV infection.

At this time last year, 6 birds from 3 counties had tested positive for WNV infection.

**In 2010, The University of California, Center for Vectorborne Diseases (CVEC) and the California Department of Public Health, Vector-Borne Disease Section began differentiating between chronic and acute infections in WNV 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 were reported this week. In 2011, one WNV positive mosquito pool has been reported from Riverside County.

Sentinel Chickens

No seroconversions have been reported in 2011.

2010 & 2011 YTD West Nile Virus Comparisons		
	2010	2011
Total # Dead Bird Reports	1,310	1,221
# Positive Counties	3	2
# Human Cases	0	0
# Horse Cases	0	0
# Positive Dead Birds / # Tested	6 / 178	1 / 171
# Positive Mosquito Pools / # Tested	0 / 1,269	1 / 1,333
# Seroconversions / # Tested	0 / 1,006	0 / 1,010
# Positive Squirrels / # Tested	0 / 6	0 / 3

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TEST SUMMARIES

Human & Horse Cases

		WNV		WEEV		SLEV	
		Local	Imported	Local	Imported	Local	Imported
Human Cases	Week	0	0	0	0	0	0
	YTD	0	0	0	0	0	0
Horse Cases	Week	0	0	0	0	0	0
	YTD	0	0	0	0	0	0

Dead Birds & Tree Squirrels

		Number Tested	WNV Positive (recent only)
Dead Birds	Week	10	0
	YTD	171	1
Tree Squirrels	Week	0	0
	YTD	3	0

Sentinel Chickens & Mosquito Pools

		Number Tested	WNV Positive	SLEV Positive	WEEV Positive
Chicken Sera	Week	440	0	0	0
	YTD	1,010	0	0	0
Mosquito Pools: RT-PCR	Week	535	0	0	0
	YTD	1,333	1	0	0
Mosquito Pools: RAMP	Week	0	0	N/A	N/A
	YTD	0	0	N/A	N/A

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).

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.

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.

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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 (WEEV), and St. Louis encephalitis (SLEV) viruses by EIA and IFA. Positive samples are confirmed by western-blot or PRNT.

Mosquito Pools:

Mosquito pools are submitted to CVEC and screened for WEEV, SLEV, 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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Website Information: For updated information on WNV in California, please visit the California WNV website, www.westnile.ca.gov, or the California Vectorborne Disease Surveillance System website, www.calsurv.org. For national information on WNV and other arboviruses, please visit the CDC website, www.cdc.gov, and the USGS website, www.westnilemaps.usgs.gov
