

California Arbovirus Surveillance Bulletin # 14

Week 20 Friday, May 20, 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 were reported this week. To date this year, 6 West Nile virus (WNV) positive dead birds from 4 counties have been detected, and an additional 10 birds have tested positive for chronic* WNV infection.

At this time last year, 5 birds from 2 counties (Los Angeles and Santa Clara) 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

One WNV positive mosquito pool from Los Angeles County was reported this week. To date this year, 3 WNV positive mosquito pools have been reported from 2 counties.

At this time last year, 1 mosquito pool from 1 county (San Bernardino) had tested positive for WNV.

Sentinel Chickens

No seroconversions have been reported in 2011.

YTD WNV Activity by Element and County, 2011

County	Humans	Horses	Dead Birds [^]	Mosquito Pools	Sentinel Chickens	Squirrels
Los Angeles			1	2		
Orange			1			
Riverside				1		
Sacramento			1			
Santa Clara			3			
Totals	0	0	6	3	0	0

[^] Chronic infections are not included in county totals

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2010 & 2011 YTD West Nile Virus Comparisons		
	2010	2011
Total # Dead Bird Reports	2,477	2,155
# Positive Counties	3	5
# Human Cases	0	0
# Horse Cases	0	0
# Positive Dead Birds / # Tested	5 / 383	6 / 423
# Positive Mosquito Pools / # Tested	1 / 3,284	3 / 3,631
# Seroconversions / # Tested	0 / 4,786	0 / 3,420
# Positive Squirrels / # Tested	0 / 16	0 / 19

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	42	0
	YTD	423	6
Tree Squirrels	Week	3	0
	YTD	19	0

Sentinel Chickens & Mosquito Pools

		Number Tested	WNV Positive	SLEV Positive	WEEV Positive
Chicken Sera	Week	971	0	0	0
	YTD	3,420	0	0	0
Mosquito Pools: RT-PCR	Week	379	1	0	0
	YTD	3,604	3	0	0
Mosquito Pools: RAMP	Week	26	0	N/A	N/A
	YTD	27	0	N/A	N/A

POSITIVES

Mosquitoes

County	Site Code	Pool #	Species	# in Pool	Collected	City	Virus	Method
Los Angeles	GRLA2671	5365	Cx. stigmatosoma	16	5/13/2011	Granada Hills	WNV	RT-PCR

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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).

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.

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.

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

Website Information: For updated information on WNV in California, please visit the California WNV website, www.westmile.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.westmilemaps.usgs.gov
