

California Arbovirus Surveillance Bulletin # 18

Week 24 Friday, June 17, 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

One West Nile virus (WNV) positive dead bird was reported this week from Santa Clara County. To date this year, 12 dead birds from 5 counties have tested positive for WNV. In addition, 10 birds have tested positive for chronic* WNV infection.

At this time last year, 24 birds from 7 counties had tested positive for WNV.

**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 was reported this week from Kern County. To date this year, 6 mosquito pools from 4 counties have tested positive for WNV.

At this time last year, 6 mosquito pools from 3 counties (Madera, Riverside and 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
Kern				2		
Los Angeles			1	2		
Orange			2			
Riverside				1		
Sacramento			1			
San Bernardino				1		
Santa Clara			6			
Tulare			2			
Totals	0	0	12	6	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	3,960	3,112
# Positive Counties	9	8
# Human Cases	0	0
# Horse Cases	0	0
# Positive Dead Birds / # Tested	24 / 745	12 / 722
# Positive Mosquito Pools / # Tested	6 / 6,913	6 / 6,457
# Seroconversions / # Tested	0 / 8,251	0 / 6,177
# Positive Squirrels / # Tested	0 / 33	0 / 35

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	96	1
	YTD	722	12
Tree Squirrels	Week	5	0
	YTD	35	0

Sentinel Chickens & Mosquito Pools

		Number Tested	WNV Positive	SLEV Positive	WEEV Positive
Chicken Sera	Week	627	0	0	0
	YTD	6,177	0	0	0
Mosquito Pools: RT-PCR	Week	824	1	0	0
	YTD	6,451	6	0	0
Mosquito Pools: RAMP	Week	5	0	N/A	N/A
	YTD	6	0	N/A	N/A

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POSITIVES

Dead Birds

County	Agency	City	Zip	Species	Collected	Virus	Type of Infection	Method
Santa Clara	Santa Clara VCD	San Jose	95129	American Crow	6/6/2011	WNV	Recent	VecTest

Mosquitoes

County	Site Code	Pool #	Species	# in Pool	Collected	City	Virus	Method
Kern	KERN0050	468	Cx. tarsalis	50	6/8/2011	Bakersfield	WNV	RT-PCR

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.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
