

# California Arbovirus Surveillance Bulletin # 22

Week 29 Friday, July 20, 2007

## Weekly and Year-To-Date Summaries

### WEEKLY COMMENTS



#### Humans

Eighteen new human cases of West Nile virus (WNV) were reported this week from the following five counties: Glenn (1), Kern (14), Mendocino (1), Merced (1), and Stanislaus (1). **These are the first human cases reported this year from Glenn, Mendocino, Merced, and Stanislaus counties, and the first indication of WNV activity in Mendocino County this year.** A total of 27 WNV cases have been reported in 2007, for a statewide incidence of 0.08 cases per 100,000 people. Of the 27 cases reported, 15 (56%) are classified as West Nile fever, eight (30%) are classified as neuroinvasive disease, and four (15%) are of unknown clinical presentation. The median age of all cases is 49 years (range: 18-96 years), and 15 (56%) cases are male. One WNV-related fatality has been reported in 2007 from Kern County. Twelve WNV-positive blood donation samples have been reported this year; 7 of the individuals subsequently developed symptoms and were reclassified as cases.

#### Horses

Two new horse cases of WNV were reported this week from Kern and Sacramento counties. Both horses are recovering.

#### Dead Birds & Tree Squirrels

A total of 125 WNV-positive dead birds were reported this week from the following 18 counties: Butte (11), Contra Costa (2), Fresno (22), Glenn (5), Kern (18), Lassen (1), Los Angeles (1), Merced (9), Sacramento (8), San Joaquin (6), San Luis Obispo (2), Santa Clara (6), Santa Cruz (1), Shasta (5), Stanislaus (21), Tehama (3), Tulare (1), and Yolo (3). **This is the first indication of WNV activity in Lassen, San Luis Obispo, and Santa Cruz counties this year.**

Two tree squirrels from San Mateo and San Joaquin counties tested positive for WNV this week. **This is the first indication of WNV activity in San Mateo County this year.**

*Reminder: Local agencies should check the Surveillance Gateway for their county DYCAST bird reporting updates.*

#### Mosquito Pools

Thirty-nine new WNV-positive mosquito pools were reported this week from 11 counties: Fresno (1), Glenn (1), Lake (2), Riverside (5), Sacramento (9), San Joaquin (10), Shasta (1), Stanislaus (4), Sutter (4), Tulare (1), and Yuba (1). **This is the first indication of WNV activity in Lake County this year.**

#### Sentinel Chickens

Nine WNV seroconversions were reported this week from three counties: Imperial (1), Sacramento (1), and Tehama (7). **These are the first seroconversions reported from Sacramento and Tehama counties this year.**

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2007 & 2006 YTD West Nile Virus Comparisons		
	2007	2006
Total # Dead Bird Reports	15,806	24,738
# Positive Counties	35	28
# Human Cases/ # Tested	27 / 542	5 / 675
# Horse Cases/ # Tested	4 / 168	3 / 233
# Positive Dead Birds/ # Tested	355 / 2,631	151 / 2,743
# Positive Mosquito Pools/ # Tested	221 / 11,201	188 / 10,346
# Positive Chicken Sera/ # Tested	22 / 14,186	11 / 16,424
# Positive Squirrels/ # Tested	5 / 86	0 / 40

# California Arbovirus Surveillance Bulletin # 22

Week 29 Friday, July 20, 2007

## YTD WNV Activity by Element and County, 2007

County	Humans*	Horses	Dead Birds	Mosquito Pools	Sentinel Chickens	Squirrels
Alameda			2			
Butte			14			
Calaveras			2			
Contra Costa			7			
Fresno			58	6	1	2
Glenn	1		15	1		
Imperial				2	6	
Kern	22	1	66	79	2	
Kings			1	4	1	
Lake				2		
Lassen			1			
Los Angeles			4	7	1	
Mendocino	1					
Merced	1		14			
Nevada			1			
Orange			9		1	
Placer				2		
Riverside			1	7		
Sacramento		1	13	18	1	
San Bernardino			3		1	
San Diego			6			
San Joaquin	1		11	62		1
San Luis Obispo			2			
San Mateo						1
Santa Clara			31			1
Santa Cruz			1			
Shasta			16	2	1	
Solano			1			
Sonoma		2				
Stanislaus	1		63	11		
Sutter			1	15		
Tehama			4		7	
Tulare			2	1		
Tuolumne			1			
Yolo			4	1		
Yuba			1	1		
<b>State Totals</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>355</b>	<b>221</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>5</b>

\* Total does not include asymptomatic infections

**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).

# California Arbovirus Surveillance Bulletin # 22

Week 29 Friday, July 20, 2007

## TEST SUMMARIES

### Human & Horse Cases

		Number Tested	WNV		WEE		SLE		Other	
			Imported	Local	Imported	Local	Imported	Local	Imported	Local
Humans Tested	Week	55	0	18	0	0	0	0	0	0
	YTD	542	0	27	0	0	0	0	0	0
Horses Tested	Week	22	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
	YTD	168	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0

### Dead Birds & Tree Squirrels

		Number Tested	WNV Positive
Dead Birds	Week	283	125
	YTD	2631	355
Tree Squirrels	Week	8	2
	YTD	86	5

### Sentinel Chickens & Mosquito Pools

		Number Tested	WNV Positive	WEE Positive	SLE Positive	Flavivirus* Positive
Chicken Sera	Week	944	9	0	0	0
	YTD	14,186	22	0	0	0
Mosquito Pools: RT-PCR	Week	1069	29	0	0	0
	YTD	10,277	160	6	0	0
Mosquito Pools: RAMP	Week	82	10	N/A	N/A	N/A
	YTD	924	61	N/A	N/A	N/A

\*Does not include those later confirmed as WNV or SLE

## POSITIVES: 7/16/07-7/20/07

### Dead Birds & Tree Squirrels

County	City	Zip Code	Species	Reported	Tested	Test Method
Butte	Paradise	95969	American Crow	7/3/07	7/16/07	RT-PCR
Butte	Paradise	95969	American Crow	7/3/07	7/16/07	RT-PCR
Butte	Magalia	95954	Western Scrub-Jay	7/5/07	7/16/07	RT-PCR
Butte	Oroville	95965	American Crow	7/6/07	7/16/07	RT-PCR
Butte	Chico	95973	Red-shouldered Hawk	7/6/07	7/16/07	RT-PCR
Butte	Gridley	95948	American Crow	7/9/07	7/16/07	RT-PCR
Butte	Chico	95973	American Crow	7/9/07	7/16/07	RT-PCR
Butte	Chico	95973	American Crow	7/10/07	7/16/07	RT-PCR
Butte	Chico	95973	American Crow	7/10/07	7/16/07	RT-PCR
Butte	Durham	95938	Western Scrub-Jay	7/11/07	7/16/07	RT-PCR
Butte	Chico	95973	Finch	7/11/07	7/16/07	RT-PCR
Contra Costa	Concord	94521	California Towhee	7/11/07	7/16/07	RT-PCR
Contra Costa	Bay Point	94565	American Crow	7/12/07	7/16/07	RAMP
Fresno	Fresno	93727	American Crow	7/1/07	7/16/07	RT-PCR
Fresno	Fresno	93710	American Crow	7/2/07	7/16/07	RT-PCR
Fresno	Clovis	93612	American Crow	7/2/07	7/16/07	RT-PCR
Fresno	Fresno	93726	American Crow	7/1/07	7/16/07	RT-PCR
Fresno	Fresno	93710	American Crow	7/2/07	7/16/07	RT-PCR
Fresno	Fresno	93720	Northern Mockingbird	7/2/07	7/16/07	RT-PCR
Fresno	Clovis	93619	American Crow	7/3/07	7/16/07	RT-PCR
Fresno	Selma	93662	Great Blue Heron	7/3/07	7/16/07	RT-PCR
Fresno	Fresno	93720	American Crow	7/3/07	7/16/07	RT-PCR

# California Arbovirus Surveillance Bulletin # 22

Week 29 Friday, July 20, 2007

Fresno	Fresno	93722	American Robin	7/5/07	7/16/07	RT-PCR
Fresno	Clovis	93619	American Crow	7/6/07	7/16/07	RT-PCR
Fresno	Clovis	93619	American Crow	7/7/07	7/16/07	RT-PCR
Fresno	Sanger	93657	Western Scrub-Jay	7/9/07	7/16/07	RT-PCR
Fresno	Fresno	93720	Western Scrub-Jay	7/9/07	7/16/07	RT-PCR
Fresno	Clovis	93612	American Crow	7/9/07	7/16/07	RT-PCR
Fresno	Fresno	93711	American Crow	7/9/07	7/16/07	RT-PCR
Fresno	Fresno	93704	Western Scrub-Jay	7/10/07	7/16/07	RT-PCR
Fresno	Fresno	93704	American Crow	7/10/07	7/16/07	VecTest
Fresno	Fresno	93740	American Crow	7/10/07	7/16/07	RT-PCR
Fresno	Fresno	93704	American Crow	7/10/07	7/16/07	RT-PCR
Fresno	Sanger	93657	Sparrow	7/11/07	7/16/07	RT-PCR
Fresno	Fresno	93728	American Crow	7/11/07	7/16/07	VecTest
Glenn	Orland	95963	White-tailed Kite	7/5/07	7/16/07	RT-PCR
Glenn	Orland	95963	Western Scrub-Jay	7/6/07	7/16/07	RT-PCR
Glenn	Orland	95963	European Starling	7/8/07	7/16/07	RT-PCR
Glenn	Willows	95988	American Crow	7/9/07	7/16/07	RT-PCR
Glenn	Orland	95963	Western Scrub-Jay	7/9/07	7/16/07	RT-PCR
Kern	Bakersfield	93313	House Sparrow	7/5/07	7/16/07	RT-PCR
Kern	Bakersfield	93307	House Sparrow	7/5/07	7/16/07	RT-PCR
Kern	Bakersfield	93304	Starling	7/5/07	7/16/07	RT-PCR
Kern	Bakersfield	93304	Western Scrub-Jay	7/5/07	7/16/07	RT-PCR
Kern	Bakersfield	93312	House Sparrow	7/6/07	7/16/07	RT-PCR
Kern	Bakersfield	93309	Western Kingbird	7/6/07	7/16/07	RT-PCR
Kern	Bakersfield	93309	American Crow	7/8/07	7/16/07	RT-PCR
Kern	Bakersfield	93309	Western Scrub-Jay	7/9/07	7/16/07	RT-PCR
Kern	Bakersfield	93311	Western Scrub-Jay	7/9/07	7/16/07	RT-PCR
Kern	Bakersfield	93309	House Sparrow	7/9/07	7/16/07	RT-PCR
Kern	Bakersfield	93308	European Starling	7/9/07	7/16/07	RT-PCR
Kern	Bakersfield	93314	Western Scrub-Jay	7/9/07	7/16/07	RT-PCR
Kern	Bakersfield	93306	House Sparrow	7/10/07	7/16/07	RT-PCR
Kern	Bakersfield	93313	House Sparrow	7/10/07	7/16/07	RT-PCR
Kern	Bakersfield	93312	House Finch	7/10/07	7/16/07	RT-PCR
Kern	Bakersfield	93312	House Sparrow	7/10/07	7/16/07	RT-PCR
Kern	Bakersfield	93308	American Crow	7/10/07	7/16/07	RT-PCR
Kern	Bakersfield	93313	American Crow	7/10/07	7/16/07	RT-PCR
Lassen	Susanville	96130	Rock Dove	7/6/07	7/16/07	RT-PCR
Los Angeles	North Hills	91343	American Crow	7/11/07	7/16/07	RT-PCR
Merced	Atwater	95301	Cockatiel	6/30/07	7/16/07	RT-PCR
Merced	Dos Palos	93620	American Crow	7/2/07	7/16/07	RT-PCR
Merced	Atwater	95301	Yellow-billed Magpie	7/2/07	7/16/07	RT-PCR
Merced	Merced	95340	American Crow	7/5/07	7/16/07	RT-PCR
Merced	Atwater	95301	Green Heron	7/5/07	7/16/07	RT-PCR
Merced	Merced	95340	Mourning Dove	7/6/07	7/16/07	RT-PCR
Merced	Merced	95340	Western Scrub-Jay	7/6/07	7/16/07	RT-PCR
Merced	Merced	95341	American Crow	7/6/07	7/16/07	RT-PCR
Merced	Merced	95340	Yellow-billed Magpie	7/10/07	7/16/07	RT-PCR
Sacramento	Fair Oaks	95628	American Crow	7/3/07	7/16/07	RT-PCR
Sacramento	Fair Oaks	95628	American Crow	7/5/07	7/16/07	RT-PCR
Sacramento	Carmichael	95608	American Crow	7/5/07	7/16/07	RT-PCR
Sacramento	Citrus Heights	95621	American Crow	7/6/07	7/16/07	RT-PCR
Sacramento	Citrus Heights	95621	American Robin	7/8/07	7/16/07	RT-PCR
Sacramento	Wilton	95693	American Crow	7/9/07	7/16/07	RT-PCR

# California Arbovirus Surveillance Bulletin # 22

Week 29 Friday, July 20, 2007

Sacramento	Sacramento	95841	Yellow-billed Magpie	7/10/07	7/16/07	RT-PCR
Sacramento	Sacramento	95610	American Crow	7/11/07	7/16/07	RT-PCR
San Joaquin	Manteca	95336	Western Scrub-Jay	7/2/07	7/16/07	RT-PCR
San Joaquin	Stockton	95209	Western Scrub-Jay	7/3/07	7/16/07	RT-PCR
San Joaquin	Manteca	95336	American Crow	7/10/07	7/16/07	VecTest
San Joaquin	Manteca	95336	American Crow	7/10/07	7/16/07	VecTest
San Joaquin	Manteca	95336	Common Raven	7/10/07	7/16/07	VecTest
San Joaquin	Stockton	95219	American Crow	7/11/07	7/16/07	VecTest
San Joaquin	Tracy	95378	Unknown-Squirrel	7/9/07	7/16/07	RT-PCR
San Luis Obispo	San Luis Obispo	93405	Mourning Dove	6/25/07	7/16/07	RT-PCR
San Luis Obispo	Nipomo	93444	Red-shouldered Hawk	6/27/07	7/16/07	RT-PCR
San Mateo	San Mateo	94403	Eastern Gray Squirrel	7/9/07	7/16/07	RT-PCR
Santa Clara	San Jose	95124	American Crow	7/11/07	7/16/07	VecTest
Santa Clara	San Jose	95124	American Crow	7/11/07	7/16/07	VecTest
Santa Clara	San Jose	95124	American Crow	7/11/07	7/16/07	VecTest
Santa Clara	San Jose	95124	American Crow	7/11/07	7/16/07	VecTest
Santa Clara	San Jose	95124	American Crow	7/11/07	7/16/07	VecTest
Santa Clara	San Jose	95124	American Crow	7/12/07	7/16/07	VecTest
Santa Cruz	Aptos	95003	Band-tailed Pigeon	7/8/07	7/16/07	RT-PCR
Shasta	Redding	96002	Western Scrub-Jay	7/6/07	7/16/07	RT-PCR
Shasta	Redding	96001	American Crow	7/9/07	7/16/07	VecTest
Shasta	Redding	96001	Yellow-billed Magpie	7/9/07	7/16/07	RT-PCR
Shasta	Redding	96003	Western Scrub-Jay	7/13/07	7/16/07	VecTest
Shasta	Redding	96002	American Crow	7/13/07	7/16/07	VecTest
Stanislaus	Turlock	95380	Western Scrub-Jay	7/2/07	7/16/07	RT-PCR
Stanislaus	Modesto	95358	Yellow-billed Magpie	7/3/07	7/16/07	RT-PCR
Stanislaus	Modesto	95350	American Crow	7/3/07	7/16/07	RT-PCR
Stanislaus	Modesto	95356	Western Scrub-Jay	7/3/07	7/16/07	RT-PCR
Stanislaus	Modesto	95355	American Crow	7/3/07	7/16/07	RT-PCR
Stanislaus	Modesto	95356	American Crow	7/5/07	7/16/07	RT-PCR
Stanislaus	Modesto	95355	American Crow	7/5/07	7/16/07	RT-PCR
Stanislaus	Modesto	95354	American Crow	7/5/07	7/16/07	RT-PCR
Stanislaus	Modesto	95350	American Crow	7/5/07	7/16/07	RT-PCR
Stanislaus	Modesto	95358	Western Scrub-Jay	7/6/07	7/16/07	RT-PCR
Stanislaus	Modesto	95356	House Finch	7/6/07	7/16/07	RT-PCR
Stanislaus	Modesto	95358	Yellow-billed Magpie	7/8/07	7/16/07	RT-PCR
Stanislaus	Modesto	95354	Yellow-billed Magpie	7/8/07	7/16/07	RT-PCR
Stanislaus	Modesto	95358	Yellow-billed Magpie	7/7/07	7/16/07	RT-PCR
Stanislaus	Modesto	95351	Western Scrub-Jay	7/8/07	7/16/07	RT-PCR
Stanislaus	Modesto	95351	American Crow	7/9/07	7/16/07	RT-PCR
Stanislaus	Modesto	95354	Western Scrub-Jay	7/9/07	7/16/07	RT-PCR
Stanislaus	Turlock	95380	Western Scrub-Jay	7/9/07	7/16/07	RT-PCR
Stanislaus	Turlock	95382	Yellow-billed Magpie	7/9/07	7/16/07	RT-PCR
Stanislaus	Modesto	95356	Finch	7/10/07	7/16/07	RT-PCR
Stanislaus	Modesto	95356	House Finch	7/10/07	7/16/07	RT-PCR
Tehama	Corning	96021	Green Heron	7/4/07	7/16/07	RT-PCR
Tehama	Corning	96021	Western Scrub-Jay	7/5/07	7/16/07	RT-PCR
Tehama	Gerber	96035	Western Scrub-Jay	7/12/07	7/16/07	VecTest
Tulare	Visalia	93277	Brewer's Blackbird	7/9/07	7/16/07	RT-PCR
Yolo	Davis	95618	American Crow	7/5/07	7/16/07	RT-PCR
Yolo	Davis	95618	Western Scrub-Jay	7/9/07	7/16/07	RT-PCR
Yolo	Woodland	95776	Black-crowned Night-Heron	7/10/07	7/16/07	RT-PCR

# California Arbovirus Surveillance Bulletin # 22

Week 29 Friday, July 20, 2007

## Mosquito Pools

County	Site Code	Pool #	Species	# in Pool	Collected	Tested	City	Virus
Fresno	CNSL1346	80	Cx quinquefasciatus	16	7/13/2007	7/18/2007	Fresno	WN
Glenn	GLEN9708	9	Cx tarsalis	50	7/11/2007	7/17/2007	Artois	WN
Lake	LAKE2002	101	Cx tarsalis	12	7/17/2007	7/18/2007	Lower Lake	WN
Lake	LAKE1004	94	Cx tarsalis	50	7/17/2007	7/18/2007	Upper Lake	WN
Riverside	COAV0035	1260	Cx tarsalis	30	7/10/2007	7/18/2007	Mecca	WN
Riverside	COAV0037	1261	Cx tarsalis	19	7/10/2007	7/18/2007	Mecca	WN
Riverside	COAV0540	1263	Cx tarsalis	50	7/10/2007	7/18/2007	Mecca	WN
Riverside	COAV0045	1295	Cx tarsalis	21	7/12/2007	7/18/2007	Mecca	WN
Riverside	COAV0131	1272	Cx tarsalis	9	7/10/2007	7/18/2007	Oasis	WN
Sacramento	SAYO4174	2463	Cx pipiens	22	7/13/07	7/16/2007	Carmichael	WN
Sacramento	SAYO2103	2683	Cx pipiens	8	7/17/07	7/18/2007	Carmichael	WN
Sacramento	SAYO4127	2352	Cx pipiens	8	7/12/07	7/16/2007	Rio Linda	WN
Sacramento	SAYO4280	2492	Cx pipiens	15	7/13/07	7/16/2007	Sacramento	WN
Sacramento	SAYO4177	2690	Cx pipiens	11	7/17/07	7/18/2007	Sacramento	WN
Sacramento	SAYO4177	2693	Cx pipiens	50	7/17/07	7/18/2007	Sacramento	WN
Sacramento	SAYO4281	2561	Cx pipiens	50	7/13/07	7/16/2007	Wilton	WN
Sacramento	SAYO4281	2567	Cx pipiens	6	7/13/07	7/16/2007	Wilton	WN
Sacramento	SAYO4322	2787	Cx tarsalis	50	7/18/07	7/18/2007	Wilton	WN
San Joaquin	SJCM8086	552	Cx pipiens	50	7/3/2007		Stockton	WN
San Joaquin	SJCM8113	675	Cx tarsalis	50	7/3/2007		Stockton	WN
San Joaquin	SJCM8113	683	Cx pipiens	50	7/3/2007		Stockton	WN
San Joaquin	SJCM8113	684	Cx pipiens	50	7/3/2007		Stockton	WN
San Joaquin	SJCM8113	686	Cx pipiens	50	7/3/2007		Stockton	WN
San Joaquin	SJCM8111	713	Cx tarsalis	50	7/6/2007		Stockton	WN
San Joaquin	SJCM8026	885	Cx pipiens	46	7/17/07	7/18/2007	Stockton	WN
San Joaquin	SJCM8026	890	Cx tarsalis	50	7/17/07	7/18/2007	Stockton	WN
San Joaquin	SJCM8076	922	Cx tarsalis	50	7/19/07	7/18/2007	Stockton	WN
San Joaquin	SJCM8076	926	Cx pipiens	22	7/19/07	7/18/2007	Stockton	WN
Shasta	SHAS0079	87	Cx tarsalis	50	7/17/2007	7/19/2007	Anderson	WN
Stanislaus	TRLK0305	747	Cx tarsalis	50	7/17/2007	7/18/2007	Grayson	WN
Stanislaus	TRLK0305	750	Cx tarsalis	50	7/17/2007	7/18/2007	Grayson	WN
Stanislaus	TRLK0319	736	Cx tarsalis	50	7/17/2007	7/20/2007	Newman	WN
Stanislaus	TRLK0319	737	Cx tarsalis	16	7/17/2007	7/18/2007	Newman	WN
Sutter	SUYA0030	184	Cx tarsalis	15	7/16/2007	7/19/2007	Live Oak	WN
Sutter	SUYA0044	168	Cx tarsalis	50	7/16/2007	7/19/2007	Pleasant Grove	WN
Sutter	SUYA0044	170	Cx tarsalis	50	7/16/2007	7/19/2007	Pleasant Grove	WN
Sutter	SUYA0031	165	Cx tarsalis	50	7/16/2007	7/19/2007	Rio Oso	WN
Tulare	DLTA6006	42	Cx tarsalis	38	7/18/2007	7/19/2007	Visalia	WN
Yuba	SUYA0097	185	Cx tarsalis	38	7/16/2007	7/19/2007	Marysville	WN

## Sentinel Chickens

County	Site	Nearest City	Date Bled	Virus	Band 01	Band 02	Band 03	Band 04	Band 05	Band 06	Band 07
Imperial	IMPR16	Holtville	7/17/2007	WN	1768						
Sacramento	SAYO7004	Elverta	7/16/2007	WN	2611						
Tehama	TEHA1	Red Bluff	7/11/2007	WN	3282	3284	3285	3286	3287	3288	3289

# California Arbovirus Surveillance Bulletin # 22

Week 29 Friday, July 20, 2007

## NATIONAL COMMENTS

As of July 17, 2007, WNV activity had been reported from 30 states. A total of 54 human cases had been reported in Arizona (7), Arkansas (1), California (9), Colorado (2), Illinois (2), Iowa (2), Minnesota (1), Mississippi (8), Nebraska (2), Nevada (1), North Dakota (8), South Dakota (7), Texas (1), Utah (1), Virginia (1), and Wyoming (1). Of the 54 cases reported, 13 (24%) had West Nile neuroinvasive disease (i.e. encephalitis or meningitis). The median age of the cases was 51 years (range: 15 months-96 years) and 50% were male. Two human fatalities had been reported from California and Mississippi.

## 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 VRDL for further testing or confirmation by plaque reduction neutralization test (PRNT).

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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:**

All bird and tree squirrel 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 and squirrels 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 and squirrels are forwarded 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.

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### **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. Positive samples are confirmed by western-blot or PRNT.

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### **Mosquito Pools:**

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.

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*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 Feiszli by phone (510) 412-6298, FAX (510) 412-6263, or email: [tfeiszli@dhs.ca.gov](mailto:tfeiszli@dhs.ca.gov).*