

# California Arbovirus Surveillance Bulletin # 1

Week 16      Friday, April 23, 2004

## Weekly Summary

### California Weekly Summary Comments:

**\* Humans:**

No positive human cases have been reported YTD.

**\* Dead Birds:**

On April 1, the UC Davis Center for Vectorborne Diseases (CVEC) reported the first dead crow of the year that tested positive for West Nile virus via RT-PCR. This week, CVEC reported four more positive dead crows. This brings the YTD total to five positive dead birds, with four from LA County (San Gabriel, El Monte, Temple City, and West Covina) and one from Ventura County (Ojai). All four crows from LA County were collected within the jurisdictional boundaries of San Gabriel Valley MVCD.

**\* Mosquito pools:**

No positive mosquito pools have been reported YTD.

**\* Sentinel Chickens:**

No sentinel chickens have seroconverted for arboviruses reported YTD.

*Notes for the tables below: - in following with the CDC's Disease Week calendar, all 2004 data begins on January 4, 2004. Data up until January 3, 2004 is included in the 2003 disease year.*

## POSITIVES

### Dead Birds Positive for WNV Reported in 2004

Species	County	City	Zip Code	Date Collected	Date Tested
American Crow	Los Angeles	San Gabriel	91776	2/24/2004	3/31/2004
American Crow	Los Angeles	El Monte	91732	3/25/2004	4/14/2004
American Crow	Ventura	Ojai	93023	4/1/2004	4/14/2004
American Crow	Los Angeles	Temple City	91780	4/5/2004	4/14/2004
American Crow	Los Angeles	West Covina	91790	4/5/2004	4/14/2004

## TESTING SUMMARIES

### Human and Equine

		Number Tested	WNV Positive		WEE Positive		SLE Positive		Other Positive	
			Imported	Local	Imported	Local	Imported	Local	Imported	Local
<b>Individuals Tested</b>	Week	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	YTD	125	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Suspect Equine Cases</b>	Week	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	YTD	41	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

### Dead Birds

Dead Birds	Total Number Reported	Number Submitted	Results Pending	WNV Positive
Previous Week	226	35	35	0
2004 YTD	1549	319	111	5

### Sentinel Chickens and Mosquito Pools

		Number Tested	WNV Positive	WEE Positive	SLE Positive	Other Positive
<b>Chicken sera</b>	Week	-	0	0	0	0
	YTD	1364	0	0	0	0
<b>Mosquito pools</b>	Week	-	0	0	0	0
	YTD	418	0	0	0	0

### National Comments:

Since January 1, 2004, West Nile virus activity has been reported in nine states (Alabama, California, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Texas). One human case was reported: a 79 year-old male from S. Ohio became ill on March 31, 2004. There have been no additional human cases.

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## Dead Birds:

Prior to April 1, our dead bird testing protocol accepted only American crows (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*) and common ravens (*Corvus corax*). After April 1 we expanded the list of acceptable species to include all corvids (crows, ravens, magpies, jays), as well as sparrows, finches, and raptors. Dead bird kidney tissues are tested by CVEC using the PCR Taqman assay, subsequent to carcass necropsy at the California Animal Health and Food Safety (CAHFS) Laboratories. Organ pools from the carcasses are tested using cell culture for virus isolation.

To report dead birds in California, please call the **Dead Bird Hotline at 1-877-WNV-BIRD** (1-800-968-2473; press 3 to be directly connected to a staff member) or report online at [www.westnile.ca.gov](http://www.westnile.ca.gov). The WNV Dead Bird Surveillance Coordinator, Ryan Carney, can be reached directly at (510) 412-6251. For updated information on WNV, please visit the California WNV website, <http://www.westnile.ca.gov>; the CDC website, <http://www.cdc.gov>; and the USGS website, <http://westnilemaps.usgs.gov>.

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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. The VRDL performs additional testing (including Plaque Reduction Neutralization (PRNT) and IgM Capture – Enzyme Linked Immunosorbent Assay (MAC-ELISA)) on specimens from sentinel chickens in which antibodies are detected in new geographic areas. The VRDL also forwards selected serum to the UC Davis Center for Vectorborne Diseases (CVEC) for additional testing for WNV, WEE, and SLE antibodies as needed.

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## Mosquito Pools:

All mosquito pools are currently tested by *in situ* EIA for WNV, WEE, and SLE at CVEC. All species except *Culex tarsalis* are also tested for California encephalitis. Pools from select districts are being tested by Taqman for WNV, WEE, and SLE. All EIA positive pools are confirmed by Taqman. Additional viral testing may include reverse transcriptase polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) and viral sequencing.

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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 Al Hom by phone (510) 412-6251, FAX (510) 412-6263, or email [ahom@dhs.ca.gov].*