

California Arbovirus Surveillance Bulletin # 2

Week 17 Friday, April 30, 2004

Weekly Summary

California Weekly Summary Comments:

* Humans:

No positive human cases were reported this week.

* Dead Birds:

The hotline received 252 reported dead birds last week, and one positive dead bird was reported from the UC Davis Center for Vectorborne Diseases (CVEC). CVEC has reported a total of six positive dead birds this year, with five from LA County (San Gabriel, El Monte, Temple City, West Covina, and Arcadia) and one from Ventura County (Ojai). All five crows from LA County were collected within the jurisdictional boundaries of San Gabriel Valley MVCD.

* All of the chicken, equine, and mosquito samples tested negative for arboviruses this week.

Website Information:

For updated information on WNV, please visit the California WNV website, www.westnile.ca.gov; the CDC website, www.cdc.gov; and the USGS website, www.westnilemaps.usgs.gov. Please go to the Vector website at <http://vector.ucdavis.edu/arbo.html> for flock location and more information on WNV and other vector-borne diseases.

POSITIVES

Dead Birds Tested Positive for WNV Last Week

Species	County	City	Zip Code	Date Collected	Date Tested
American Crow	Los Angeles	Arcadia	91006	4/16/2004	4/22/2004

TESTING SUMMARIES

Human and Equine

		Number Tested	WNV Positive		WEE Positive		SLE Positive		Other Positive	
			Imported	Local	Imported	Local	Imported	Local	Imported	Local
Individuals Tested	Week	26	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	YTD	151	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Suspect Equine Cases	Week	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	YTD	46	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Dead Birds

	Number Tested	WNV Positive
Week	51	1
YTD	305	6

Sentinel Chickens and Mosquito Pools

		Number Tested	WNV Positive	WEE Positive	SLE Positive	Other Positive
Chicken sera	Week	786	0	0	0	0
	YTD	2150	0	0	0	0
Mosquito pools	Week	77	0	0	0	0
	YTD	887	0	0	0	0

National Comments:

As of April 28, 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:

Dead bird kidney tissues are tested at 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. The WNV Dead Bird Surveillance Coordinator, Ryan Carney, can be reached directly at (510) 412-6251.

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.

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.
