

California Arbovirus Surveillance Bulletin # 3

Week 18 Friday, May 7, 2004

Weekly Summary

California Weekly Summary Comments:

* All of the samples tested negative this week for arboviruses.

*** Dead Birds:**

The hotline received 280 reported dead birds last week (YTD = 2037). Currently, the yearly total stands at six positive dead birds from Los Angeles (5) and Ventura (1) counties.

*** 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.

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	19	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	YTD	170	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Suspect Equine Cases	Week	0	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	17	0
YTD	301*	6

Sentinel Chickens and Mosquito Pools

		Number Tested	WNV Positive	WEE Positive	SLE Positive	Other Positive
	YTD	3447	0	0	0	0
Mosquito pools	Week	280	0	0	0	0
	YTD	1167	0	0	0	0

* This number reflects recent adjustments of data to correct for discrepancies between the beginning of the CDC's Disease Week (January 4, 2004) and January 1, 2004.

National Comments:

As of Wednesday, May 5, no additional states have reported first West Nile virus activity. West Nile virus has been reported in nine states (Alabama, California, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Texas). One human case was reported in late March. 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.
