

California Arbovirus Surveillance Bulletin # 4

Week 19 Friday, May 14, 2004

Weekly Summary

California Weekly Summary Comments:

Humans:

No positive human cases were reported this week.

Dead Birds:

The hotline received 420 reported dead birds last week (YTD = 2,459). The UC Davis Center for Vectorborne Diseases (CVEC) reported four positive dead birds from Los Angeles and Riverside counties. The dead bird reported in Riverside was the first WNV activity for that county in 2004. Currently, the yearly total stands at ten positive dead birds from LA County (8), Ventura County (1), and Riverside County (1).

News Flash:

CVEC just reported the first WNV positive dead bird for San Bernardino County and five more positive dead birds in Los Angeles County. These will be reported in the dead bird positive table next week in Bulletin #5.

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	Montebello	91006	4/26/2004	5/5/2004
American Crow	Los Angeles	Arcadia	90640	4/26/2004	5/5/2004
American Crow	Riverside	Riverside	92506	4/27/2004	5/5/2004
American Crow	Los Angeles	San Gabriel Valley	91776	4/28/2004	5/5/2004

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	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	YTD	174	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Suspect Equine Cases	Week	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	YTD	52	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Dead Birds

	Number Tested	WNV Positive
Week	30	4
YTD	330	10

Sentinel Chickens and Mosquito Pools

		Number Tested	WNV Positive	WEE Positive	SLE Positive	Other Positive
Chicken sera	Week	856	0	0	0	0
	YTD	4303	0	0	0	0
Mosquito pools	Week	527	0	0	0	0
	YTD	1694	0	0	0	0

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National Comments:

West Nile virus activity has been detected in 8 states. Ohio had previously reported a human case; it has subsequently been determined upon further testing that this person did not have evidence of West Nile virus activity.

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 screened for WEE, SLE, and WNV viral RNA using a Taqman multiplex RT-PCR. All species except *Culex tarsalis* are also tested for California Encephalitis via EIA. All positive pools are confirmed by both singleplex RT-PCR as well as *in situ* EIA.

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