

California Arbovirus Surveillance Bulletin #1

Week 16 Friday, April 18, 2025



WEEKLY UPDATE

Humans

No human infections have been reported in 2025.

2024 Final Summary

West Nile virus: In 2024, a total of 131 symptomatic and 19 asymptomatic infections with West Nile virus (WNV) were reported from 25 counties. Of the 131 symptomatic cases, 103 (79%) had neuroinvasive disease and 12 (9%) fatalities were reported. The median age of all cases was 60 years and 84 (64%) were male. Dates of symptom onset ranged from May 28 to October 24, 2024.

St. Louis encephalitis virus: No human infections of St. Louis encephalitis virus were reported in 2024.

Dead Birds

A single (1) new WNV positive dead bird was reported this week from 1 county: Santa Clara (1). In 2025, a total of 5 WNV positive birds have been reported in 2 counties. At this time last year, 13 WNV positive dead birds had been reported from 4 counties.

Mosquito Pools

No WNV positive mosquito pools have been reported in 2025. At this time last year, 1 WNV positive mosquito pool had been reported from 1 county.

Sentinel Chickens

No seroconversions have been reported in 2025.

2024 & 2025 YTD West Nile Virus Comparisons		
	2024	2025
Total No. Dead Bird Reports	782	2,098
No. Positive Counties	4	2
No. Human Cases	0	0
No. Positive Dead Birds / No. Tested	13 / 89	5 / 138
No. Positive Mosquito Pools / No. Tested	1 / 2,320	0 / 2,193
No. Seroconversions / No. Tested	0 / 0	0 / 0

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YTD WNV Activity by Element and County, 2025					
County	Humans	Horses	Dead Birds	Mosquito Pools	Sentinel Chickens
Alameda			2		
Santa Clara			3		
Totals			5		

TESTING SUMMARIES

		WNV	SLEV	WEEV
Human Cases	Week	0	0	0
	YTD	0	0	0

		Positive / Total Tested					
		WNV	SLEV	WEEV	CHIK	DENV	ZIKA
Dead Birds	Week	1 / 12					
	YTD	5 / 138					
Chicken Sera	Week	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0			
	YTD	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0			
Mosquito Pools	Week	0 / 373	0 / 373	0 / 373	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0
	YTD	0 / 2,193	0 / 2,193	0 / 2,193	0 / 3	0 / 3	0 / 3

POSITIVES

Dead birds

County	Submitting Agency	City	Zip Code	Species	Date Reported	Virus
Alameda	Alameda Co MAD	Castro Valley	94546	American Crow	3/25/2025	WNV
Alameda	Alameda Co MAD	Castro Valley	94546	American Crow	3/19/2025	WNV
Santa Clara	Santa Clara Co VCD	Morgan Hill	95037	Unknown	4/2/2025	WNV
Santa Clara	Santa Clara Co VCD	Palo Alto	94303	American Crow	3/29/2025	WNV
Santa Clara	Santa Clara Co VCD	Santa Clara	95054	Unknown - songbird	4/10/2025	WNV

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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 the California Department of Public Health Viral and Rickettsial Disease Laboratory (VRDL) for further testing with a plaque reduction neutralization test (PRNT).

Dead Birds

Oral swab samples collected from bird carcasses are tested at the UC Davis Arbovirus Research and Training laboratory (DART) or at a local agency for West Nile virus by RT-qPCR.

Sentinel Chickens:

Dried blood spot samples from sentinel chickens are tested at the California Department of Public Health Vector-Borne Disease Laboratory for IgG antibodies to West Nile, St. Louis encephalitis, and western equine encephalomyelitis viruses by an EIA. Positive samples are confirmed by IFA, western-blot, or PRNT.

Mosquito Pools:

Mosquito pools are tested at DART or at a local agency for West Nile, western equine encephalomyelitis, and St. Louis encephalitis viral RNA using a multiplex RT-qPCR. Invasive *Aedes* mosquitoes (*Ae. aegypti* and *Ae. albopictus*) are also tested at DART for chikungunya, dengue, and Zika viral RNA by a separate RT-qPCR.

Website Information: For updated information on WNV in California, please visit the California WNV website, <https://westnile.ca.gov>, or the California Vector-Borne Disease Surveillance System website, <https://maps.vectorsurv.org>.

Prepared by the Vector-Borne Disease Section (Infectious Diseases Branch), California Department of Public Health, 850 Marina Bay Parkway, Richmond, CA 94804. Questions concerning this bulletin should be addressed to Hannah Romo: Hannah.romo@cdph.ca.gov