

California Arbovirus Surveillance Bulletin #4

Week 17 Friday, May 1, 2026



WEEKLY UPDATE

Humans

No human infections have been reported in 2026.

Dead Birds

A total of 2 West Nile virus (WNV) positive dead birds were reported from 2 counties: Alameda (1) and Santa Clara (1). **These are the first detections of WNV activity in Alameda and Santa Clara counties this year.** In 2026, 3 WNV positive bird have been reported from 3 counties: Alameda (1), San Diego (1), and Santa Clara (1). At this time last year, 8 WNV positive dead birds had been reported from 2 counties.

Mosquito Pools

No WNV positive mosquito pools have been reported in 2026. At this time last year, no WNV positive mosquito pool had been reported.

Sentinel Chickens

No seroconversions have been reported in 2026.

2025 & 2026 YTD West Nile Virus Comparisons		
	2025	2026
Total No. Dead Bird Reports	2,462	1,527
No. Positive Counties	2	3
No. Human Cases	0	0
No. Positive Dead Birds / No. Tested	8 / 176	3 / 102
No. Positive Mosquito Pools / No. Tested	0 / 3,715	0 / 6,022
No. Seroconversions / No. Tested	0 / 35	0 / 61

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YTD WNV Activity by Element and County, 2026					
County	Humans	Horses	Dead Birds	Mosquito Pools	Sentinel Chickens
Alameda			1		
San Diego			1		
Santa Clara			1		
Totals			3		

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	2 / 27					
	YTD	3 / 102					
Chicken Sera	Week	0 / 61	0 / 61	0 / 61			
	YTD	0 / 61	0 / 61	0 / 61			
Mosquito Pools	Week	0 / 586	0 / 586	0 / 586	0 / 3	0 / 3	0 / 3
	YTD	0 / 6,022	1 / 6,022	0 / 6,022	0 / 38	0 / 38	0 / 38

POSITIVES

Dead Birds

County	Submitting Agency	City	Zip Code	Species	Date Reported	Virus
Alameda	Alameda Co MAD	Newark	94560	American Crow	4/23/2026	WNV
Santa Clara	Santa Clara Co VCD	San Jose	95128	American Crow	4/18/2026	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