

California Arbovirus Surveillance Bulletin #5

Week 18 Friday, May 8, 2026



WEEKLY UPDATE

Humans

No human infections have been reported in 2026.

Dead Birds

A single (1) West Nile virus (WNV) positive dead bird was reported from 1 county: Fresno (1). **This is the first detection of WNV activity in Fresno County this year.** In 2026, 4 WNV positive birds have been reported from 4 counties: Alameda (1), Fresno (1), San Diego (1), and Santa Clara (1). At this time last year, 9 WNV positive dead birds had been reported from 2 counties.

Mosquito Pools

There were no positive mosquito pools reported this week. No WNV positive mosquito pools and a single (1) SLEV positive mosquito pool have been reported in 2026. At this time last year, no positive mosquito pools 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	2,668	1,723
No. Positive Counties	2	4
No. Human Cases	0	0
No. Positive Dead Birds / No. Tested	9 / 213	4 / 124
No. Positive Mosquito Pools / No. Tested	0 / 4,350	0 / 6,611
No. Seroconversions / No. Tested	0 / 158	0 / 107

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YTD WNV Activity by Element and County, 2026					
County	Humans	Horses	Dead Birds	Mosquito Pools	Sentinel Chickens
Alameda			1		
Fresno			1		
San Diego			1		
Santa Clara			1		
Totals			4		

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 / 22					
	YTD	4 / 124					
Chicken Sera	Week	0 / 46	0 / 46	0 / 46			
	YTD	0 / 107	0 / 107	0 / 107			
Mosquito Pools	Week	0 / 459	0 / 459	0 / 459	0 / 8	0 / 8	0 / 8
	YTD	0 / 6,611	1 / 6,611	0 / 6,611	0 / 52	0 / 52	0 / 52

POSITIVES

Dead Birds

County	Submitting Agency	City	Zip Code	Species	Date Reported	Virus
Fresno	Fresno MVCD	Fresno	93721	Rock Dove (Pigeon)	5/4/2026	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>.

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