

California Arbovirus Surveillance Bulletin #6

Week 19 Friday, May 15, 2026



WEEKLY UPDATE

Humans

No human infections have been reported in 2026.

Dead Birds

There were no positive dead birds reported this week. 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, 13 WNV positive dead birds had been reported from 3 counties.

Mosquito Pools

A total of 2 new WNV positive mosquito pools were reported from 1 county: Los Angeles (2). **This is the first detection of WNV activity in Los Angeles County this year.** In 2026, 2 WNV positive mosquito pools have been reported from 1 county: Los Angeles (2), and a single (1) SLEV positive mosquito pool has been reported from 1 county: Riverside (1). At this time last year, 4 positive mosquito pools had been reported from 2 counties.

Sentinel Chickens

No seroconversions have been reported in 2026.

2025 & 2026 YTD West Nile Virus Comparisons		
	2025	2026
Total No. Dead Bird Reports	2,942	1,974
No. Positive Counties	5	5
No. Human Cases	0	0
No. Positive Dead Birds / No. Tested	13 / 250	4 / 229
No. Positive Mosquito Pools / No. Tested	4 / 5,054	2 / 8,748
No. Seroconversions / No. Tested	0 / 176	0 / 149

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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		
Los Angeles				2	
San Diego			1		
Santa Clara			1		
Totals			4	2	

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	0 / 105					
	YTD	4 / 229					
Chicken Sera	Week	0 / 42	0 / 42	0 / 42			
	YTD	0 / 149	0 / 149	0 / 149			
Mosquito Pools	Week	2 / 1,147	0 / 1,147	0 / 1,147	0 / 20	0 / 20	0 / 20
	YTD	2 / 8,748	1 / 8,748	0 / 8,748	0 / 104	0 / 104	0 / 104

POSITIVES

Mosquito Pools

County	Site	Pool No	Species	City	Pool Size	Trap	Collected	Virus
Los Angeles	GRLA 2145	235	Cx quinquefasciatus	Long Beach	50	GRVD	05/08/2026	WNV
Los Angeles	GRLA 2247	219	Cx quinquefasciatus	Pico Rivera	50	GRVD	05/06/2026	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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