

California Arbovirus Surveillance Bulletin #7

Week 20 Friday, May 22, 2026



WEEKLY UPDATE

Humans

No human infections have been reported in 2026.

Dead Birds

A total of 3 new West Nile Virus (WNV) positive dead birds were reported this week from 3 counties: Los Angeles (1), Sacramento (1), and Ventura (1). **This is the first detection of WNV activity in Ventura County this year. These are the first WNV positive dead birds from Los Angeles County and Sacramento County this year.** In 2026, 7 WNV positive dead birds have been reported from 7 counties: Alameda (1), Fresno (1), Los Angeles (1), Sacramento (1), San Diego (1), Santa Clara (1), and Ventura (1). At this time last year, 13 WNV positive dead birds had been reported from 3 counties.

Mosquito Pools

West Nile virus

A total of 3 new WNV positive mosquito pools were reported from 3 counties: Los Angeles (1), Sacramento (1), and San Bernardino (1). **These are the first detections of WNV activity in Sacramento County and San Bernardino County this year.** In 2026, 5 WNV positive mosquito pools have been reported from 3 counties: Los Angeles (3), Sacramento (1), and San Bernardino (1). At this time last year, 8 positive mosquito pools had been reported from 3 counties.

St. Louis encephalitis virus

No new St. Louis encephalitis virus (SLEV) positive mosquito pools were reported this week. In 2026, a single (1) SLEV positive mosquito pool has been reported from 1 county: Riverside (1). At this time last year, no SLEV 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	3,229	2,311
No. Positive Counties	6	8
No. Human Cases	0	0
No. Positive Dead Birds / No. Tested	13 / 349	7 / 314
No. Positive Mosquito Pools / No. Tested	8 / 6,386	5 / 10,422
No. Seroconversions / No. Tested	0 / 341	0 / 318

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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			1	3	
Sacramento			1	1	
San Bernardino				1	
San Diego			1		
Santa Clara			1		
Ventura			1		
Totals			7	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	3 / 86					
	YTD	7 / 314					
Chicken Sera	Week	0 / 169	0 / 169	0 / 169			
	YTD	0 / 318	0 / 318	0 / 318			
Mosquito Pools	Week	3 / 1,301	0 / 1,207	0 / 1,207	0 / 1	0 / 1	0 / 1
	YTD	5 / 10,422	1 / 10,328	0 / 10,328	0 / 113	0 / 113	0 / 113

POSITIVES

Dead Birds

County	Submitting Agency	City	Zip Code	Species	Date Reported	Virus
Los Angeles	Greater Los Angeles Co VCD - SFS	Long Beach	90808	American Crow	5/12/2026	WNV
Sacramento	Sacramento-Yolo MVCD	Sacramento	95819	American Crow	5/20/2026	WNV
Ventura	Ventura Co Env Health Dept	Ventura	93004	American Crow	5/12/2026	WNV

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Mosquito Pools

County	Site	Pool No	Species	City	Pool Size	Trap	Collected	Virus
Los Angeles	ANTV 223739	3	Cx quinquefasciatus	Lancaster	12	BGSENT	05/14/2026	WNV
Sacramento	SAYO 223044	47	Cx stigmatosoma	Sacramento	7	GRVD	05/19/2026	WNV
San Bernardino	SANB 536	78	Cx quinquefasciatus	San Bernardino	50	GRVD	05/08/2026	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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