

California Arbovirus Surveillance Bulletin # 14

Week 20 Friday, May 20, 2005

Weekly Summary	
Comments:	
Humans:	
No human cases of WNV have been reported this year.	
Horses:	
The California Department of Food & Agriculture has reported no WNV positive equine cases.	
Dead Birds:	
This week the hotline received 1,385 dead bird reports, for an YTD total of 13,727 reports. Zero out of 130 dead birds collected from 27 counties tested positive for WNV.	
Since January 1, 2005, 65 of 2,184 (3.0%) dead birds have tested positive for WNV.	
Mosquito Pools:	
CVEC reported no positive mosquito pools.	
Sentinel Chickens:	
VRDL reported no sentinel chicken seroconversions.	
Website Information:	
For updated information on WNV, please visit the California WNV website, www.westnile.ca.gov , the CDC website, www.cdc.gov , and the USGS website, www.westnilemaps.usgs.gov . Please go to the Vector website at http://vector.ucdavis.edu/arbo.html for flock location and more information on WNV and other vector-borne diseases.	

TEST SUMMARIES

Humans and Horses

		Number Tested	WNV Positive		WEE Positive		SLE Positive		Other Positive	
			Imported	Local	Imported	Local	Imported	Local	Imported	Local
Humans Tested	Week	33	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	YTD	398	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Horses Tested	Week	17	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	YTD	139	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Dead Birds

	Number Tested	WNV Positive
Week	130	0
YTD	2184	65

Sentinel Chickens and Mosquito Pools

		Number Tested	WNV Positive	WEE Positive	SLE Positive	Other Positive
	YTD	7891	1	0	0	0
Mosquito pools	Week	523	0	0	0	0
	YTD	4257	1	0	0	0

*Total has been adjusted to include local agency submission

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TEST PROTOCOLS

Dead Birds:

All bird species, except chickens, doves, and pigeons, from all zip codes are currently being accepted for testing unless otherwise requested by a local agency. Positive Vec-Tests from oral swabs from crows are no longer confirmed. Other bird species are tested by singleplex RT-PCR and confirmed with a second primer set.

Dead birds are necropsied at the California Animal Health and Food Safety (CAHFS) Laboratories and kidney tissue from the dead birds are forward to the UC Davis Center for Vectorborne Diseases (CVEC) for WNV using the PCR Taqman assay. Organ pools from PCR positive carcasses are tested using cell culture for virus isolation. The WNV Dead Bird Surveillance Coordinator, Ryan Carney, can be reached directly at (510) 412-6254.

Sentinel Chickens:

Dried blood spot specimens from sentinel chickens submitted each week to the DHS Viral and Rickettsial Disease Laboratory (VRDL) and are tested for the presence of antibodies to West Nile virus (WNV), western equine encephalomyelitis (WEE), and St. Louis encephalitis (SLE) viruses by EIA and IFA. The VRDL performs additional testing, including plaque reduction neutralization (PRNT), on specimens from sentinel chickens from geographic areas where WNV is detected for the first time. The VRDL also forwards selected serum to CVEC for additional testing for WNV, WEE, and SLE antibodies as needed.

Mosquito Pools:

All mosquito pools are screened for WEE, SLE, and WNV viral RNA using a Taqman multiplex RT-PCR. CVEC will cease confirmation testing on PCR-positive pools of *Cx. tarsalis* and *Cx. quinquefasciatus* but will continue to confirm multiplex PCR-positive results for other mosquito species using singleplex RT-PCR.

Prepared by the Vector-Borne Disease Section (Infectious Diseases Branch) and the Viral and Rickettsial Disease Laboratory Branch, Division of Communicable Disease Control, California Department of Health Services, 850 Marina Bay Parkway, Richmond, CA 94804. Questions concerning this bulletin should be addressed to Al Hom by phone (510) 412-6252, FAX (510) 412-6263, or email [ahom@dhs.ca.gov].