## Weekly Summary

### Comments:

### Humans:

As of July 15, 2005, 10 human West Nile virus (WNV) infections have been identified from the following local health jurisdictions: Fresno (1), Kern (1), Merced (1), Riverside (1), San Bernardino (1), and Tulare (5). Four of the 10 infections were initially detected in asymptomatic individuals through screening done at blood banks - three individuals later developed symptoms. Of the 9 WNV cases with symptoms, 2 are classified as West Nile neuroinvasive disease cases, and 7 are classified as West Nile fever. The median age for all cases where data is available is 47.5 years (range: 18-77 years). There have been no WNV-related fatalities to date in California this year.

### Horses:

The California Department of Food & Agriculture reported eight new confirmed cases of WNV in Calaveras (1), Fresno (2), Kings (1), Riverside (2), and Tulare (2) counties. One of the horses in Fresno county was from Clovis where symptoms onset on 7/7/05. This horse was euthanized. These were the first WNV positive horses in Calaveras, Fresno, and Kings counties. The YTD total for the State is 15.

### Dead Birds:

This week the hotline received 4,997 dead bird reports, for an YTD total of 35,992 reports. 99 out of 238 (41.6%) dead birds collected from 41 counties tested positive for WNV this week.

- Fifty-nine out of 190 (31.1%) dead birds tested positive via RT-PCR.
- Eight out of 10 (80.0%) corvids tested positive via VecTest.
- Ten out of 10 (100 %) corvids tested positive via RAMP.
- Twenty-two out of 28 (78.6%) dead birds tested positive via immunohistochemistry.

The WNV positive dead birds were collected from the following counties: Colusa, Fresno, Kern, Kings, Merced, Napa, Orange, San Bernardino, San Joaquin, Santa Barbara, Santa Clara, Sonoma, Stanislaus, Tulare, Tuolumne, and Yuba. **This is the first indication of WNV activity in Colusa, Napa, and Yuba counties in 2005.**

The following bird species tested positive for WNV: American crow (54); American robin (2); Brewer’s blackbird (1); dark-eyed junco (1); European starling (1); goldfinch (1); house finch (2); house sparrow (1); red-tailed hawk (1); snowy egret (1); sparrow (1); Steller’s jay (1); western bluebird (1); western scrub-jay (27); yellow-billed magpie (4). See “WNV Positive Dead Birds” table for details.

Since January 1, 2005, 456 of 4,063 (11.2%) dead birds have tested positive for WNV.

### Mosquito Pools:

**WNV:** CVEC reported 96 WNV positive mosquito pools from the following counties: Fresno (5), Glenn (3), Kern (17), Los Angeles (17), Orange (15), Placer (1), Riverside (4), Sacramento (15), San Bernardino (2), Stanislaus (2), Sutter (9), Tulare (3), Yolo (1), and Yuba (2). **This is the first indication of WNV activity in Glenn county in 2005.** These were the first WNV positive mosquito pools in Glenn, Stanislaus and Yuba counties. The YTD total for the State is 235.

**WEE:** CVEC also reported 1 positive WEE pools in Kern county. This is the first indication for a WEE positive mosquito pool in Kern county. The YTD total for the State is 25.
Sentinel Chickens:

WNV: No WNV seroconversions were reported this week. Two local districts—Sacramento (2) and Placer (3) reported five chickens tested positive for antibodies toward flavivirus (SLE/WNV). The samples are being sent to VRDL for confirmation. The current YTD total stands at five seroconversions.

WEE: VRDL reported 14 WEE seroconversions in seven flocks from Imperial (13) and Riverside (1) counties. The current YTD stands at 37 seroconversions.

Website Information:


TEST SUMMARY

Humans and Horses

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Sentinel Chickens and Mosquito Pools

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*Total has been adjusted to include local agency submission

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Sentinel Chickens and Mosquito Pools

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*Total has been adjusted to include local agency submission
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## California Arbovirus Surveillance Bulletin # 22

**Week 28  Friday, July 15, 2005**

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### American Crows Found Positive

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# California Arbovirus Surveillance Bulletin # 22

**Week 28  Friday, July 15, 2005**

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National Comments:
As of July 12, 2005, West Nile virus (WNV) activity has been detected in 26 states. At this time in 2004, a total of 34 states and Puerto Rico had published WNV activity. A total of 25 human WNV cases have been reported in 2005 from 11 states. At this time in 2004, 108 cases had been reported from 10 states. In 2005, of the 24 cases with available data, the median age is 45 years (range: 17-80 years) and 19 (79%) of the cases are male. Eight (33%) of the cases are neuroinvasive. There has been one reported WNV-related fatality.
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) 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].