



CD Connection

Orange County Communicable Disease News

Health Care Agency/Public Health Services - Epidemiology

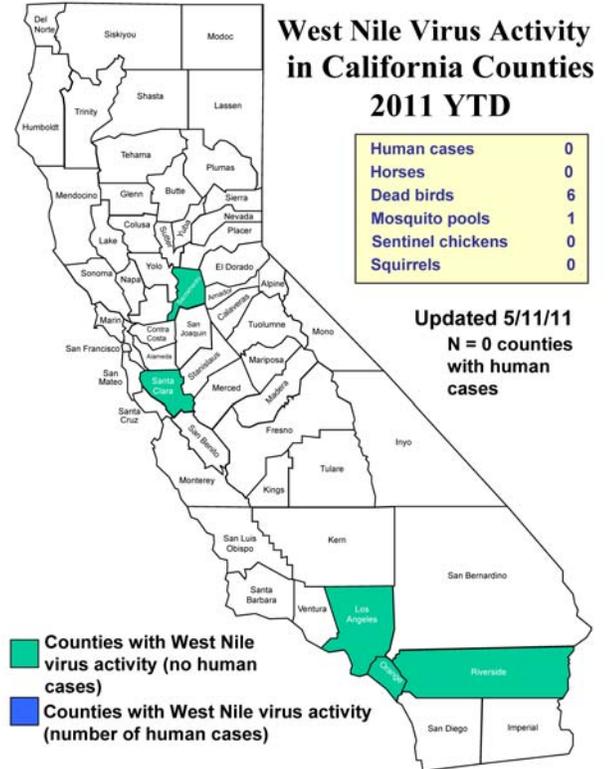
May 11, 2011

1719 W. 17th St. Santa Ana, CA 92706, (714) 834-8180

Orange County reports its first West Nile Virus positive bird of the season! This is the first detection of WNV in Orange County this year. WNV has also been detected in mosquito samples and/or dead birds in four other California counties (Los Angeles, Riverside, Sacramento, and Santa Clara). Although no human cases of WNV infection have been reported yet this season in California, WNV is endemic and we expect to see cases every year. In previous years, the first WNV cases in Orange County usually had symptom onsets starting in mid-June to mid-July.

Consider WNV infection in your patients with aseptic meningitis, encephalitis, acute flaccid paralysis or prolonged fever and submit serum specimens for testing.

- **Diagnosis** is made by serology (IgM or paired acute and convalescent IgG) for WNV. Testing is available through commercial laboratories and through OC Public Health on a case-by-case basis (714-834-8180).
 - WNV IgM may be negative early in the course of the disease and serology may cross react with other flaviviruses (e.g., dengue, St. Louis Encephalitis, or yellow fever, including yellow fever vaccine).
 - Repeat serology may be indicated if initial testing is negative in the first 10 days after onset of symptoms.
- **Treatment** is mainly supportive care. For clinical trials: www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/clinicalTrials.htm.
- **For clinical guidance:** <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/clinicians/>.
- **Reporting:** WN fever (WNF), West Nile Neuroinvasive Disease (WNND), asymptomatic WNV infection, aseptic meningitis, and encephalitis are all reportable diseases and should be reported within one working day to Public Health via phone (714-834-8180) or fax (714-834-8196).



Educate your patients, friends and family about WNV prevention -- avoiding mosquito bites:

- Eliminate standing water on your property, as this is where mosquitoes breed.
- Make sure that door and window screens are installed and in good condition.
- When outdoors, use an insect repellent containing DEET, picaridin, oil of lemon eucalyptus, or IR3535. (See www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/ga/insect_repellent.htm for more info.)
- Avoid being outdoors during dusk and dawn and wear long sleeves and long pants while outdoors.

Recommended Resources

Orange County Health Care Agency:
www.ochealthinfo.com/epi/wnv

Orange County Vector Control District:
www.ocvcd.org or Ph: 714-971-2421

California Department of Public Health:
www.westnile.ca.gov

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:
www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile

For comments or suggestions on this newsletter, please contact Sandra Nutter, MPH, or Dr. Michele Cheung at (714) 834-8180. To receive this newsletter by email, please contact us at epi@ochca.com.