



# CD Connection

Orange County Communicable Disease News

Health Care Agency/Public Health Services - Epidemiology

June 28, 2012

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## West Nile Virus & Typhus Update

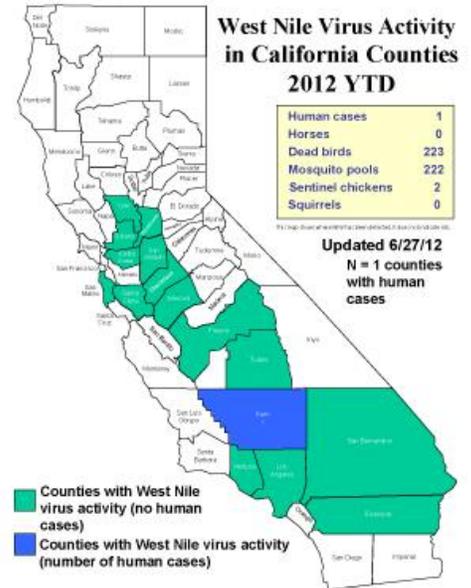
**Orange County reports its first West Nile Virus positive mosquito pool of the season!** This is the first detection of West Nile Virus (WNV) in Orange County this year. WNV has also been detected in mosquito samples and/or dead birds in 16 other California counties (see map below). Human cases are expected at any time in Orange County and have been reported here each year since 2004. In previous years, the first WNV cases in Orange County usually had symptom onsets starting in mid-June to mid-July.

### California reports its first human case of West Nile Virus for 2012.

The patient is an adult from Kern County who developed symptoms in late May. Nationally, two human cases of WNV have been reported so far this year from California and Texas (as of June 19, 2012).

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

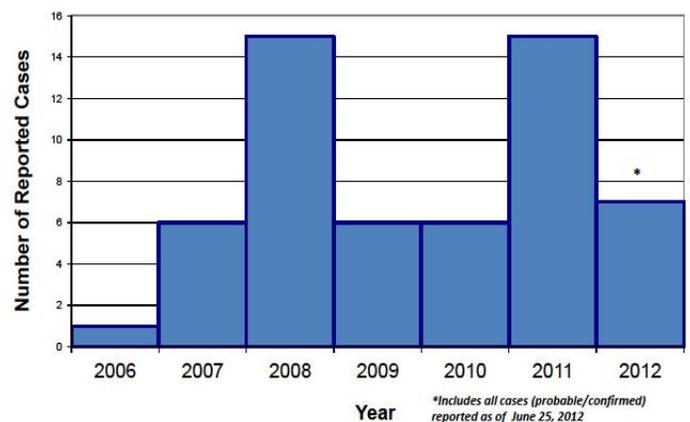
- **Diagnosis** is best made by serology (IgM and IgG, or paired acute and convalescent IgG) for WNV. For West Nile Neuroinvasive Disease cases, CSF IgM is also recommended. Testing is available through commercial laboratories and through OC Public Health on a case-by-case basis.
  - WNV IgM may be negative early in the course of the disease and serology may cross react with other flaviviruses.
  - Repeat serology may be indicated if initial testing is negative in the first 10 days after onset of symptoms.
- **Clinical guidance for WNV:**  
<http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/clinicians/>.



## Typhus in Orange County

- Seven cases of endemic (flea-borne) typhus have been reported so far this year.
- Common symptoms of typhus include fever, headache, malaise, and sometimes nausea and vomiting. Rash (macular or maculopapular) is present in about 50% of patients and typically appears on day 4-7 of illness and lasts 4-8 days.
- Diagnosis is mainly through serology (IgM and IgG, or paired acute and convalescent IgG) for *R. typhi*. Testing is available through commercial laboratories.
  - Serology may be negative early in the course of the disease and may cross react with other rickettsial diseases (such as Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever).
  - Repeat serology may be indicated if initial testing is negative early after onset of symptoms.
- Typhus can be fatal if left untreated. Doxycycline is the treatment of choice. Treatment should be based on clinical suspicion and not delayed pending laboratory confirmation.
- See [www.ochealthinfo.com/epi/typhus](http://www.ochealthinfo.com/epi/typhus) for more information.

Endemic Typhus Cases by Year of Report\* Orange County, CA



**Disease Reporting:** WNV infection, aseptic meningitis, encephalitis and rickettsial diseases, including typhus and typhus-like illnesses, are all reportable conditions. Report suspect/confirmed cases to Orange County Epidemiology (phone: 714-834-8180/fax: 714-834-8196).

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