



## COUNTY OF ORANGE

### PUBLIC HEALTH EPIDEMIOLOGY & ASSESSMENT

MAILING ADDRESS:  
P.O. Box 6128  
Santa Ana, CA 92706-0128

TELEPHONE: (714) 834-8180  
FAX: (714) 834-8196

July 14, 2014

### **First West Nile Virus Case of the Season Reported in Orange County**

Orange County's first West Nile Virus case for the season was reported last week, in an adult male living in Santa Ana.

The Orange County Vector Control District has reported a significant increase in West Nile Virus positive mosquito pools and dead birds tested since May. Increases in WNV- positive mosquito and bird samples have been particularly seen in the northwestern Santa Ana area, though positives have been found in many areas of the county. Most human cases of WNV are seen in late summer and fall; we expect to see more community cases in the coming weeks. As of July 11, 10 cases have been reported in California.

#### **Clinical Presentation**

80% of WNV infections are asymptomatic. Most symptomatic patients have a febrile illness, often accompanied by nonspecific symptoms including headache, rash, swollen lymph nodes, eye pain, nausea, or vomiting. Less than 1% of those infected develop neurologic disease.

#### **Diagnosis**

West Nile Virus infection can be diagnosed by WNV serum IgM and IgG testing. CSF WNV IgM should be tested in patients with neuroinvasive disease. Serum WNV IgM may be negative early in the course of illness, repeat testing may be appropriate if initial testing is negative. Providers should consider testing for WNV infection in patients with unexplained fever lasting for 7 days or more, or neurologic disease including aseptic meningitis, encephalitis, acute flaccid paralysis, atypical Guillain-Barre syndrome, or transverse myelitis. All age groups can be infected, though older adults in particular suffer severe disease.

There is no antiviral treatment for WNV disease, supportive care is recommended.

#### **Prevention**

Persons can protect themselves by taking measures to limit exposure to mosquitoes, including use of mosquito repellents, wearing long-sleeved shirts and long pants, and limiting outdoor exposure from dusk to dawn. Using air conditioning, installing window and door screens, and reducing peridomestic mosquito breeding sites, can further decrease the risk for WNV exposure.

#### **West Nile Virus Infection is a California Code of Regulations Reportable Disease**

Call the Orange County Health Care Agency at 714-834-8180 (or fax to 714-834-8196) to report a suspect or confirmed infection, or with any questions.

For more information about WNV, see [www.cdc.gov/westnile](http://www.cdc.gov/westnile).

For more information on WNV epidemiology in Orange County in previous seasons, see [ochealthinfo.com/phs/about/dcepi/epi/disease/wn](http://ochealthinfo.com/phs/about/dcepi/epi/disease/wn).