

August 1, 2014

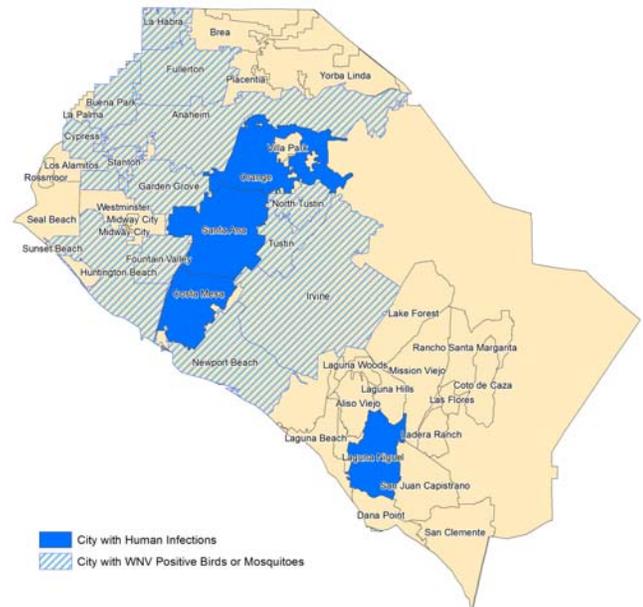
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West Nile Virus Update

West Nile Virus (WNV) activity is increasing in Orange County! In the previous two weeks, 6 human cases and one asymptomatic blood donor have been reported in Orange County, for a total of 8 locally acquired infections (1 additional case was travel-related) to date this season. Cities with locally acquired infections include Costa Mesa (1), Laguna Niguel (1), Orange (1), and Santa Ana (5). Additional cities in Orange County have seen WNV activity in birds and mosquitoes. See map at right.

- Orange County Health Care Agency works with Orange County Vector Control District to investigate all WNV cases, provide education and institute control measures to prevent further cases. How can you help?
 - Test suspect human cases for WNV
 - Report suspect/confirmed human cases to Orange County Epidemiology (phone: 714-834-8180/fax: 714-834-8186)
 - Report dead birds to the Orange County Vector Control District: Phone: (714) 971-2421 or (949) 654-2421

West Nile Virus Activity
 Orange County 2014 (as of July 31)



Source: Orange County Health Care Agency, Epidemiology & Assessment
 Orange County Vector Control District
 Note: Human infections are mapped by city of residence and may not indicate the location of exposure

August and September are the busiest months for WNV activity. 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. 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/>

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

- Eliminate standing water on your property as this is where mosquitoes breed. Drain pots, unclog gutters, and keep swimming pools clean and chlorinated or drained and covered.
- Make sure that door and window screens are in good condition to keep the mosquitoes out.
- When outdoors, use an insect repellent containing DEET, oil of lemon eucalyptus, picaridin, or IR3535. For more information on use and effectiveness of insect repellent: <http://cfpub.epa.gov/oppref/insect/>.

Typhus Update

- 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.
- Suspect, probable and confirmed cases should be reported to OC Epidemiology, call 714-834-8180.
- See <http://ohealthinfo.com/phs/about/dcepi/epi/disease/typhus> for more information.

For comments or suggestions on this newsletter, please contact Sandra Okubo, MPH or Matt Zahn, MD at (714) 834-8180. To receive this newsletter by email, please contact us at epi@ochca.com.