



CLINICIAN UPDATE, May 5, 2006

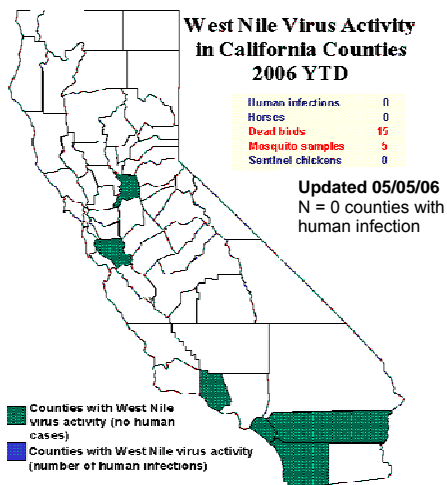
THE WEST NILE FILE



Orange County Health Care Agency, Epidemiology & Assessment, 1719 W. 17th St. Santa Ana, CA 92706, (714) 834-8180

Birds have tested positive for West Nile Virus (WNV) in Orange County this year. Human cases are expected at any time. Consider WNV infection in your patients with aseptic meningitis, encephalitis, acute flaccid paralysis, or prolonged febrile illness.

- **WNV testing is recommended for the following individuals:**
 - All hospitalized patients with encephalitis
 - All hospitalized patients with aseptic meningitis (consider enterovirus first in children)
 - All hospitalized patients with acute flaccid paralysis
 - Patients with prolonged febrile illness (≥ 7 days) and symptoms compatible with West Nile infection who are seen by a healthcare provider.
- **Diagnosis is best made by serology (IgM and IgG) for WNV.** WNV IgM may be negative early in the course of the disease and repeat serology may be indicated if initial testing was done in the first 10 days after onset of symptoms. A positive WNV IgG alone (in the absence of IgM) may represent prior infection with WNV or other cross-reacting flaviviruses (dengue, St. Louis Encephalitis, or yellow fever, including yellow fever vaccine), but does NOT rule out acute or recent infection with WNV if done in the 10 days after onset.
- **WNV vaccine trial results** were published in the 4/25/06 issue of the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* available at <http://www.pnas.org/cgi/content/full/103/17/6694>.



West Nile Virus --Orange County

- Last year, OC reported 17 confirmed cases of WNV (4 WN Fever (WNF), 13 WN Neuroinvasive Disease (WNND)). Human cases occurred starting in June, peaked in early August, and continued through October.
- No human cases have been reported for 2006. This year, WNV has been detected in birds in 6 California counties (Orange, Sacramento, San Diego, San Mateo, Santa Clara, & Ventura) and mosquitoes in 1 county (Riverside).
- WNV infection, WNF, WNND, meningitis, and encephalitis are all reportable diseases and should be reported within one working day to OC Epidemiology via phone (714-834-8180) or fax (714-834-8196).
- To report dead birds, call Orange County Vector Control at 714-971-2421 x117.

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 or picaridin. Always follow the product directions on the label.
- For more information about prevention: www.ochealthinfo.com/epi/wnv/Repellent.pdf.

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 Health Services:
www.westnile.ca.gov

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

If you have any comments about the flyer, contact Michele Cheung, MD MPH or Sandra Nutter, MPH at (714) 834-8180. To receive this newsletter by email, please contact us at epi@ochca.com.