



CLINICIAN UPDATE, May 23, 2006

THE WEST NILE FILE

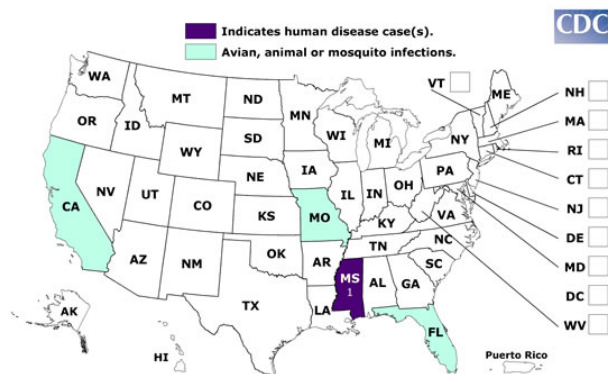


Orange County Health Care Agency, Epidemiology & Assessment, 1719 W. 17th St. Santa Ana, CA 92706, (714) 834-8180

Additional 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, or prolonged fever and submit specimens for WNV testing.

- WNV Transmission
 - WNV is most commonly spread by the bite of an infected mosquito. Avoiding mosquito bites is the #1 way to prevent WNV infection. For updated information on insect repellent, please visit <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/RepellentUpdates.htm>
 - Transmission of WNV has also been rarely reported through blood transfusions, organ transplantation, *in utero* from mother to baby, and through work exposures (animal handling or laboratory).
- Pregnant women who develop illness consistent with WNV infection should be tested for WNV and enrolled in the CDC pregnancy registry so outcomes of WNV infection during pregnancy can be followed. OC Epidemiology can assist you in enrolling your patient in the registry once the case is reported.
- "Birth outcomes following West Nile virus infection of pregnant women in the United States: 2003-2004" was published in the March 2006 edition of *Pediatrics*. The full text article can be viewed at <http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/cgi/content/full/117/3/e537>.
- Proceedings from the 2006 National Conference on WNV in the US are available at http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/conf/February_2006.htm

2006 West Nile Virus Activity in the United States (Reported to CDC as of May 16, 2006*)



West Nile Virus –California and National

- No human cases have been reported for 2006 in California. WNV has been detected in birds in 6 of the 58 California Counties so far this year: Orange, Sacramento, San Diego, San Mateo, Santa Clara, & Ventura. Riverside County and Los Angeles County have reported positive mosquito pools in California.
- Mississippi has reported the first human WNV case this year.
- WN 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, picaridin, or oil of lemon eucalyptus. 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.