



CLINICIAN UPDATE, June 9, 2006

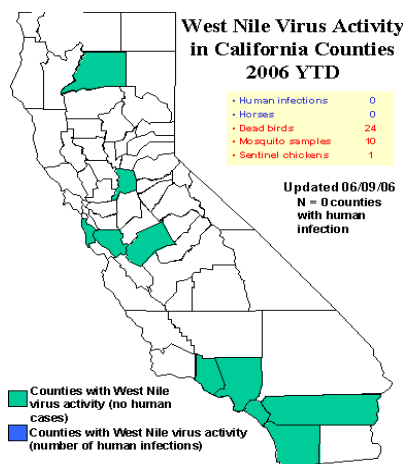
# THE WEST NILE FILE



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

**Last year 3,000 cases of West Nile virus (WNV) and 119 deaths were reported to the CDC. Human cases have already been reported this year in Mississippi and Texas. Consider WNV infection in your patients with aseptic meningitis, encephalitis, or prolonged fever (> 7 days) and submit serology (IgM, IgG) for WNV testing.**

- Types of WNV infection
  - ~80% of WNV infections are asymptomatic.
  - **West Nile Fever (WNF) – 15-20%:** Febrile illness accompanied by headache, fatigue, myalgias, skin rash, and/or lymphadenopathy.
  - **West Nile Neuroinvasive Disease (WNND) – <1%:** Aseptic meningitis or encephalitis.
  - **Acute Flaccid Paralysis (AFP) – <1%:** Most commonly presents as a poliomyelitis-like or atypical Guillain Barré syndrome with asymmetric weakness.
- People over the age of 50 are at increased risk for severe WNV disease
  - In 2004, over 70 percent of WNV fatalities were in people over the age of 50
  - WNV infection prevention and control recommendations for long-term care facilities are available at <http://westnile.ca.gov/publications.htm>.
- Printable educational materials are available in English, Spanish and Vietnamese at [http://westnile.ca.gov/edu\\_materials.htm](http://westnile.ca.gov/edu_materials.htm).



## West Nile Virus – Orange County and California

- No human cases have been reported in CA for 2006.
- Positive birds have been detected in Orange, Sacramento, San Diego, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Shasta, and Ventura Counties. Positive mosquitoes have been detected in Los Angeles, Merced and Riverside Counties.
- One sentinel chicken has seroconverted for WNV in Los Angeles County in 2006.
- 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).

## 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](http://www.ochealthinfo.com/epi/wnv/Repellent.pdf).

## Recommended Resources

**Orange County Health Care Agency:**  
[www.ochealthinfo.com/epi/wnv](http://www.ochealthinfo.com/epi/wnv)

**Orange County Vector Control District:**  
[www.ocvcd.org](http://www.ocvcd.org) or Ph: 714-971-2421  
 To report dead birds: X117

**California Department of Health Services:**  
[www.westnile.ca.gov](http://www.westnile.ca.gov)

**Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:**  
[www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile](http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile)

If you have any comments about the flyer, contact John Janeski, MPH or Sandra Nutter, MPH at (714) 834-8180. To receive this newsletter by email, please contact us at [epi@ochca.com](mailto:epi@ochca.com).