



CLINICIAN UPDATE, July 29, 2005

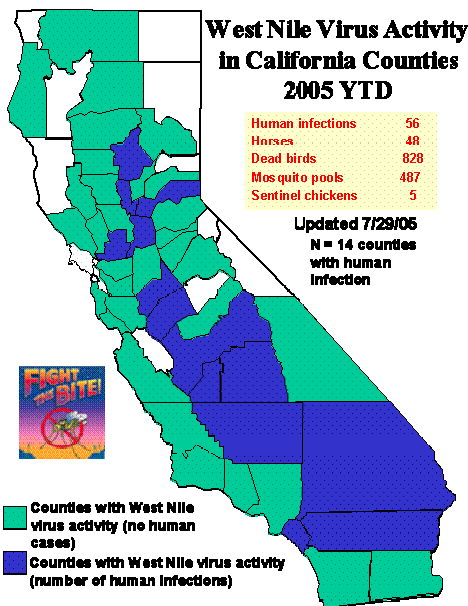
# THE WEST NILE FILE



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**The first human case of West Nile Virus (WNV) infection in Orange County during 2005 has been confirmed.** Additional possible cases are being evaluated and are awaiting confirmation. There have been two WNV-related fatalities reported in California this year (King and Riverside Counties). Human cases have also been reported in 15 other states in the US as of 7/26/05.

- Consider WNV infection in your patients with aseptic meningitis, encephalitis, acute flaccid paralysis or prolonged fever ( $\geq 7$  days) and send serology (IgM, IgG) for WNV.
- Continue to encourage personal prevention messages for avoiding mosquito bites:
  - Drain standing water on your property as this is where mosquitoes breed
  - Make sure doors and screens are in good condition to keep mosquitoes out
  - When outdoors, use an insect repellent containing DEET, picaridin, or oil of lemon eucalyptus. Always follow the product directions on the label.
- No human vaccine against WNV is available yet, but horse products are available. A new DNA vaccine for horses was just licensed on July 8, 2005. This is the first licensed DNA vaccine of any type and this technology may be used to design human vaccines against WNV and other diseases.



### West Nile Virus — Orange County 2005

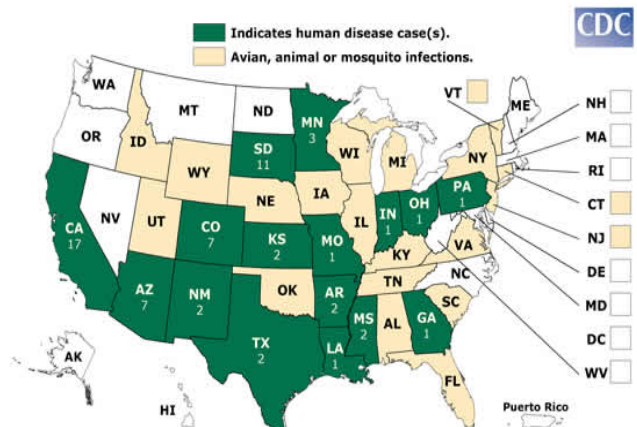
- A 35 y.o. female resident of Laguna Niguel has been confirmed as our first case of WNV this year. It is unclear exactly where she was exposed to the virus, as she traveled to other parts of CA where WNV has been detected.
- Increasing numbers of birds and mosquitoes are testing positive for WNV throughout Orange County.
- If you have patients with West Nile Fever (WNF) or West Nile Neuroinvasive Disease (WNND) who donated blood in the 14 days prior to onset of illness, please notify the blood collection agency immediately. For more information, see [http://www.ochealthinfo.com/epi/wnv/wnv\\_transfusions.htm](http://www.ochealthinfo.com/epi/wnv/wnv_transfusions.htm).

#### Recommended Resources

OC Public Health: [www.ochealthinfo.com/epi/wnv](http://www.ochealthinfo.com/epi/wnv)  
 OC Vector Control: [www.ocvcd.org](http://www.ocvcd.org) or 714-971-2421  
 California: [www.westnile.ca.gov](http://www.westnile.ca.gov) or 1-877-WNV-BIRD  
 USA: [www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile](http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile)

### West Nile Virus — California and US 2005

- 56 human WNV infections have been reported in CA from 14 counties – 16 (32.7%) of the 49 symptomatic cases had WNND, 27 (55.1%) had WNF, and 6 (12.2%) were unspecified. Eleven of the infections were initially detected in asymptomatic blood donors; four later developed symptoms.
- 61 human WNV cases have been reported to the CDC as of July 26, 2005 – 18 (29.5%) had WNND, 40 (65.6%) WNF, and 3 (4.9%) unspecified. 25 presumptive viremic blood donors have been reported from 7 states. There have been 3 WNV-related deaths in the US.



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