



CLINICIAN UPDATE, July 7, 2006

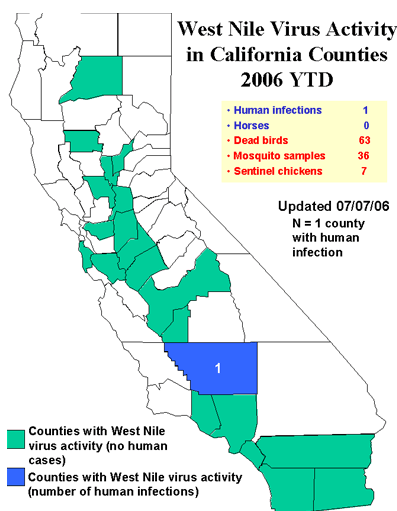
THE WEST NILE FILE



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

California has already reported its first West Nile Virus (WNV) case this year. Consider West Nile Virus (WNV) infection in your patients with aseptic meningitis, encephalitis, flaccid paralysis, or prolonged fever (> 7 days) and submit serology for WNV testing.

- **WNV-associated acute flaccid paralysis (AFP)** can occur alone or with West Nile Fever (WNF), meningitis or encephalitis. It most commonly presents as a poliomyelitis-like or atypical Guillain Barré syndrome. The weakness can take on many patterns including acute monoplegia (weakness or paralysis of one limb), asymmetric upper or lower extremity weakness, and generalized asymmetric quadriplegia. Deep tendon reflexes in affected limbs are usually diminished or absent. For more information on WNV-associated AFP, see Sejvar et al. *Emerg Infect Dis* 2005;11:1021-1027, available at <http://www.cdc.gov/eid>.
- **Diagnosis of WNV infection** is best made by serology (IgM or paired acute and convalescent IgG) for WNV. WNV testing is available through commercial laboratories or on a case-by-case basis through Orange County Epidemiology (714) 834-8180.
- **Resources for Physicians:** For additional information on diagnosis and management of West Nile Virus (WNV), visit the **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)** at <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/clinicians/> and **Physicians' Information & Education Resource (PIER)** at <http://pier.acponline.org/physicians/public/d951/d951.html>.



West Nile Virus – Orange County, California, & U.S.

- Human cases have been reported in California (Kern County), Colorado, Mississippi, and Texas. To date, there have been no confirmed human WNV cases in OC this year.
- As of July 7, 2006, WNV activity has been detected in 21/58 CA counties. Dead birds have tested positive from Contra Costa, Fresno, Glenn, Merced, Orange, Sacramento, San Diego, San Joaquin, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Shasta, Stanislaus, Ventura, Yolo, and Yuba counties.
- Mosquitoes have tested positive from Fresno, Imperial, Kern, Kings, Los Angeles, Merced, Riverside, Sacramento, Stanislaus, Sutter, Yolo and Yuba counties.
- Chickens have tested positive from Los Angeles and Imperial counties.

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
 To report dead birds: X117

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 John Janeski, MPH or Sandra Nutter, MPH at (714) 834-8180. To receive this newsletter by email, please contact us at epi@ochca.com.