



CLINICIAN UPDATE, August 18, 2006

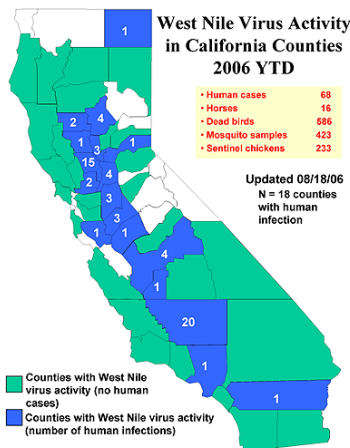
# THE WEST NILE FILE



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**The first West Nile Virus (WNV)-related death in California for 2006 was reported this week. Consider West Nile Virus (WNV) infection in your patients with aseptic meningitis, encephalitis, or prolonged fever (> 7 days) and submit serology for WNV testing.**

- **The first human WNV infection in Orange County this year has been reported.** A 44-year-old man from South Orange County was identified with asymptomatic WNV infection through the blood donation screening process. The man may have acquired the infection outside of the county.
- **Testing for West Nile Virus**
  - Preferred test: serum 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, but does NOT rule out acute or recent infection with WNV if done in the 10 days after onset.
- **Study Assesses Long-Term Outcomes of West Nile Virus Infection.** Forty-nine persons with confirmed WNV infections during 2003 were assessed a mean of 13 months after diagnosis. The most common residual symptoms among study participants were fatigue, memory problems, extremity symptoms (e.g., pain, weakness, and numbness), joint pain, word-finding difficulties, and headaches. Non-hospitalized patients were just as likely as hospitalized patients to experience adverse outcomes. See *Clin Infect Dis* 2006 Sep 15 at: <http://www.journals.uchicago.edu/CID/journal/issues/v43n6/39303/39303.web.pdf>



## 2006 WNV – Orange County, California, & U.S.

- **One asymptomatic blood donor has tested positive for WNV in Orange County.** Positive birds have been found throughout the county. Two positive mosquito pools have been reported in Northern Orange County.
- **California** has reported 68 human cases from the following counties: Butte (4), Colusa (1), Fresno (4), Glenn (2), Kern (20), Kings (1), Los Angeles (1), Merced (1), Modoc (1), Placer (1), Riverside (1), Sacramento (4), San Joaquin (3), Santa Clara (1), Solano (2), Stanislaus (3), Sutter (3), and Yolo (15). One fatality has been confirmed.
- 46/58 **CA** counties have reported WNV activity.
- 388 human cases and 13 deaths have been reported to the CDC from mostly the Central and Western **United States** as of August 15<sup>th</sup>.

## 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/dybid/westnile](http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dybid/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).