



Disease Control and Epidemiology

Reports of West Nile Virus Infections are Increasing in Orange County

August 18, 2017

Five cases of West Nile Virus (WNV) infection have been identified in Orange County this year, including four new cases reported to the Orange County Health Care Agency (OCHCA) in the past week. Three of these four are WNV neuroinvasive disease. According to the Orange County Mosquito and Vector Control District, the highest concentrations of WNV-positive mosquitoes has been found in La Habra, Anaheim, and Fullerton. For California, 41 cases of WNV infection from nine counties have been reported so far this year.

Recommendations

- Health care providers should consider WNV infection in patients with acute febrile or neurologic illnesses.
- WNV fever, aseptic meningitis, encephalitis, and acute flaccid paralysis are all reportable conditions. WNV cases should be reported to the OCHCA Epidemiology & Assessment Program.

Symptoms

The incubation period is usually 2 to 6 days after a bite from an infected mosquito. Initial symptoms include fever, headache, malaise, arthralgia, or myalgia, and occasionally nausea, vomiting and/or a maculopapular rash. The majority of WNV infections manifest as febrile illness. Neuroinvasive disease can manifest as aseptic meningitis, encephalitis, or acute flaccid paralysis.

Testing

Testing should be performed on patients with any of the following conditions: encephalitis, aseptic meningitis, acute flaccid paralysis, atypical Guillain-Barré syndrome, transverse myelitis, or prolonged fever (> 7 days).

- Testing for WNV should include serum WNV IgM and IgG, with CSF IgM when a lumbar puncture is performed.
- WNV IgM may be negative early in the course of disease. Repeat serology may be indicated if initial testing was done ≤ 7 days after the onset of illness.

If you have any questions or concerns please contact the **Epidemiology and Assessment Program at 714-834-8180 (Fax: 714-564-4050)**. Mosquito surveillance and data can be found at <http://www.ocvector.org>.