



Disease Control and Epidemiology

The First West Nile Virus-Associated Death Has Been Confirmed in an Orange County Resident

October 6, 2017

The first West Nile Virus (WNV) death of the season has been confirmed in an elderly female resident of Anaheim who had neuroinvasive disease. New cases of WNV continue to be reported throughout Orange County. A total of 26 symptomatic cases and 5 asymptomatic blood donors have been reported so far this season.

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.

Contact Information

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>.