



CD Connection

Orange County Communicable Disease News

Health Care Agency/Public Health Services - Epidemiology

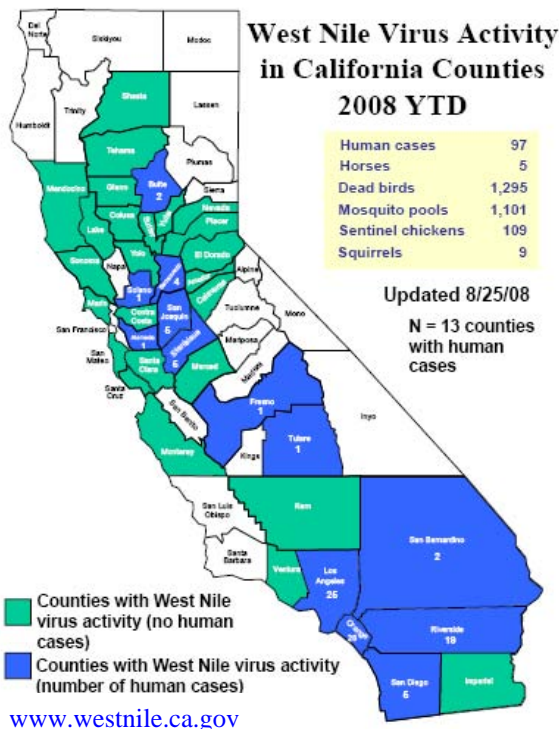
August 25, 2008

1719 W. 17th St. Santa Ana, CA 92706, (714) 834-8180

West Nile Virus activity is high in Orange County. To date, we have received almost as many reports of confirmed human West Nile Virus (WNV) infections in Orange County in 2008 as in the past three years (2005-2007) combined. It is too early to predict whether the 2008 totals will exceed the number seen in our previous peak year 2004 when we had 64 confirmed WNV infections, but human cases to date are more numerous than at the same time in 2004. The first confirmed WNV death in Orange County this season reminds us of the potential severity of the illness and the need to use precautions to avoid WNV infection.

Consider WNV infection in your patients with aseptic meningitis, encephalitis, acute flaccid paralysis or prolonged fever and submit specimens for testing. In previous seasons, Orange County has continued to have WNV cases with symptom onset through September or October.

- **Diagnosis** is made by serology (IgM or paired acute and convalescent IgG) for WNV. Testing is available through commercial laboratories and through OC Public Health on a case-by-case basis.
- **To report a suspect or confirmed WNV case:** Call 714-834-8180 or fax 714-834-8196.
- **For more information about WNV infection, diagnosis, and reporting,** see the May 2008 issue of *CD Connection*, available at www.ochealthinfo.com/epi/cd_news/index.htm.



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

- Twenty-six symptomatic WNV cases (21 West Nile Neuroinvasive Disease and 5 West Nile Fever), including one death, and four asymptomatic WNV-positive blood donors (BD+) have been confirmed in OC as of 8/25/08.
- CA totals: 97 human WNV cases and 15 BD+
- US totals: 236 WNV cases, including two deaths, and 37 BD+ (as of 8/19/08).

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

California Department of Public Health:
www.westnile.ca.gov

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:
www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile

PREVENTION is key – avoiding mosquito bites. Educate your patients, friends and family to:

- 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 installed and in good condition to keep mosquitoes out.
- When outdoors, use an insect repellent containing DEET, picaridin, oil of lemon eucalyptus, or IR3535. Always follow the product directions on the label.
- Avoid being outdoors during dusk and dawn which are prime mosquito biting times and wear long sleeves and long pants while outdoors.



For comments or suggestions on this newsletter, please contact Dr. Michele Cheung at (714) 834-8180. To receive this newsletter by email, please contact us at epi@ochca.com.