

# Disease Control and Epidemiology

## First West Nile Virus Infection Identified in Orange County

July 7, 2017

The first West Nile Virus infection in Orange County this year was identified this week, in a female resident of Laguna Beach in her 70s. Three additional West Nile Virus (WNV) cases have been reported in the state as of 6/30/17.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

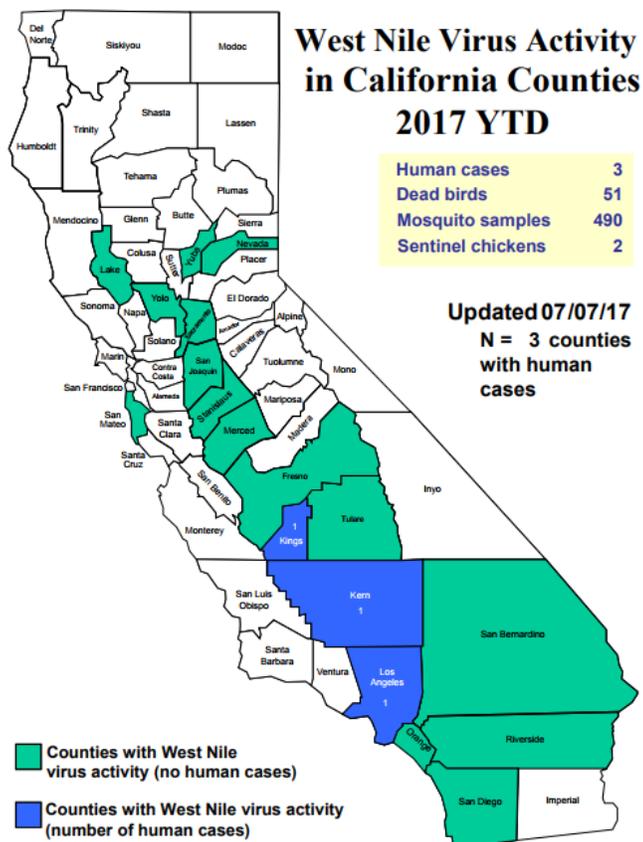
- **Providers should consider WNV infection in patients who present with appropriate clinic symptoms**
- **Report all WNV infections.** All WNV infections are investigated by Public Health and sites of potential exposure are shared with Orange County Mosquito and Vector Control District to reduce and/or eliminate potential mosquito breeding sites in areas at increased risk of transmission. **Report by phone (714-834-8180) or fax (714-834-8196) within one working day.**

### CLINICAL DESCRIPTION

- The incubation period for WNV infection is usually 2 to 6 days after a bite from an infected mosquito. Clinical syndromes range from simple febrile illness to neuroinvasive disease, which can manifest as meningitis, encephalitis, or acute flaccid paralysis. Additional symptoms include headache, malaise, arthralgia, myalgia, and/or a maculopapular rash.
- 80% of infected persons are asymptomatic. Less than 1% of infected persons develop neuroinvasive disease. Persons 50 years and older and those who are immunocompromised have the highest risk of severe disease.

### CLINICAL DIAGNOSIS

- **WNV 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 without other diagnosis.
- Testing for WNV should include serum WNV IgM and IgG, with CSF IgM testing for cases of neuroinvasive disease. Serum WNV IgM false positives can occur; serum IgG + testing helps confirm this diagnosis.



<http://www.westnile.ca.gov>

**Educate your patients, staff, and family about WNV prevention!**

- Eliminate standing water on your property as this is where mosquitoes breed;
- Make sure that door and window screens are installed and in good condition;
- When outdoors, use an insect repellent with DEET, picaridin or oil of lemon eucalyptus;
- Avoid being outdoors during dusk and dawn and wear long pants and long sleeves when outdoors.
- For Recommendations for Protecting Outdoor Workers from West Nile Virus Exposure, see:  
<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/docs/2005-155/>

**For questions or concerns please contact the Epidemiology and Assessment Program at 714-834-8180.**