

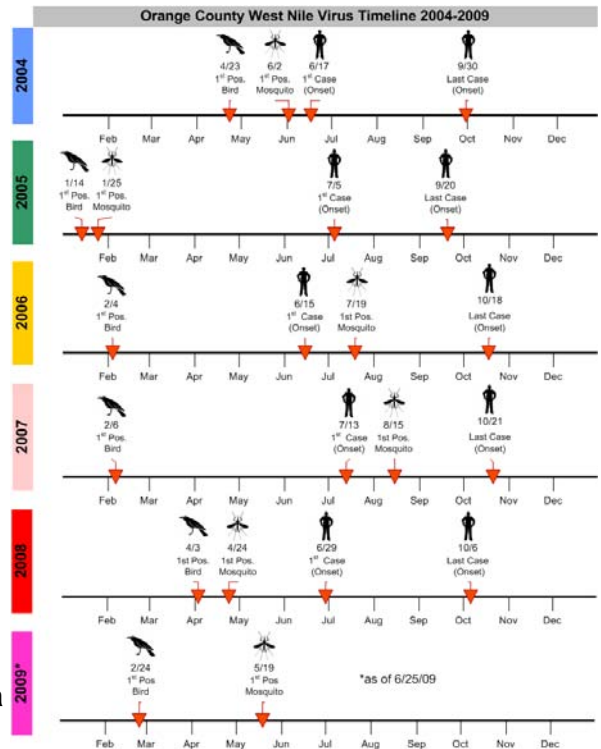
June 25, 2009

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

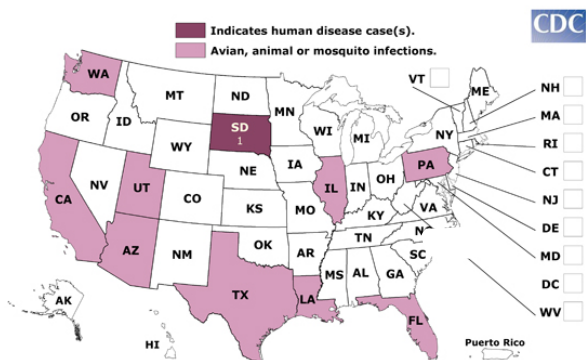
Summer is here, and so is West Nile Virus season! West Nile Virus (WNV) activity has been detected in humans, mosquito pools, dead birds, and sentinel chickens in California thus far in 2009. One human infection has been reported from Los Angeles County in an asymptomatic blood donor. In Orange County, four WNV-positive dead birds and one positive mosquito pool have been reported to date this season. Although no human cases of WNV infection have been reported yet in Orange County, WNV is endemic and we expect to see cases every year. In previous years, the first WNV cases in Orange County had onsets starting in mid-June to mid-July. For a summary of the 2008 WNV season see <http://www.ochealthinfo.com/epi/for-phys.htm#wnv>.

Consider WNV infection in your patients with aseptic meningitis, encephalitis, acute flaccid paralysis or prolonged fever and submit serum specimens for testing.

- **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 (714-834-8180).
 - WNV IgM may be negative early in the course of the disease and serology may cross react with other flaviviruses (e.g., dengue, St. Louis Encephalitis, or yellow fever, including yellow fever vaccine).
 - Repeat serology may be indicated if initial testing is negative in the first 10 days after onset of symptoms.
- **Treatment** is mainly supportive care. For clinical trials: www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/clinicalTrials.htm.
- **For clinical guidance:** <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/clinicians/>.
- **Reporting:** WN fever (WNF), West Nile Neuroinvasive Disease (WNND), asymptomatic WNV infection, aseptic meningitis, and encephalitis are all reportable diseases and should be reported within one working day to Public Health via phone (714-834-8180) or fax (714-834-8196).



National West Nile Virus Activity, as of June 24, 2009:



Educate your patients, friends and family about WNV prevention -- avoiding mosquito bites:

- 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 containing DEET, picaridin, oil of lemon eucalyptus, or IR3535.
- Avoid being outdoors during dusk and dawn and wear long sleeves and long pants while outdoors.

Recommended Resources

Orange County Health Care Agency:
www.ochealthinfo.com/epi/wnv

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

Orange County Vector Control District:
www.ocvcd.org or Ph: 714-971-2421

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

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