First West Nile Virus-Associated Death of 2016 Reported in Orange County. West Nile virus season usually runs through October in Orange County, but cases have been diagnosed as late as December. Physicians should continue to stay alert to possible cases over the coming weeks.

WNV Update - OC:
- The first West Nile virus (WNV) death of the 2016 season was reported this week. The La Habra resident was in their late 60s and had multiple underlying medical conditions. The patient was hospitalized with signs of acute flaccid paralysis (AFP), which is one neurologic manifestation of WNV disease. AFP often presents as isolated limb paresis or paralysis.
- New cases of WNV continue to be reported in Orange County. A total of 29 symptomatic cases and 4 asymptomatic blood donors have been reported so far this season (chart at right).

WNV Update – CA: There were 17 new WNV cases reported in California last week for a total 327 cases, including 11 fatalities (as of 10/14).

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 febrile illness to neuroinvasive disease, which typically manifests as meningitis, encephalitis, or acute flaccid paralysis. Initial symptoms include fever, headache, malaise, arthralgia, or myalgia, and/or a maculopapular rash and occasionally nausea, vomiting.
- 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:
- Testing for WNV should be performed on those 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 for cases of neuroinvasive disease.
- Differential etiology of suspected WNV illness, include Herpes simplex virus, enteroviruses, and other arboviruses. WNV serology may cross react with other flaviviruses. Check for travel to flavivirus-endemic areas and obtain vaccination history.

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.

Report all WNV infections. All WNV infections are investigated by Public Health. 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.

For comments or suggestions on this newsletter, please contact Sandra Okubo, MPH, or Matt Zahn, MD at (714) 834-8180. To receive this newsletter by email, please contact us at epi@ochca.com.