



MOSQUITO AND VECTOR MANAGEMENT DISTRICT OF SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

DISEASE SURVEILLANCE REPORT

January 2019

Live Mosquito-Borne Virus Surveillance

No mosquito trapping surveys were conducted in January as the 2019 mosquito trapping season has not started. Staff conducted inspections at various sites in the southern coastal communities, especially following rains and flooding, and treated for mosquito larvae as needed.

West Nile Virus Dead Bird Submissions

There were no notifications to the Dead Bird Hotline. No West Nile virus (WNV) activity was detected in Santa Barbara County in January. Twelve human cases of WNV infection in California were reported between December 27, 2018 and January 31, 2019.

St. Louis Encephalitis Virus Activity

There were 5 SLEV disease cases in California in 2018 and none have been reported in 2019 as of January 31. SLEV activity has never been confirmed in Santa Barbara County.

Zika Virus and Invasive *Aedes* Mosquito Update

As of February 1, there have been 702 travel-associated Zika virus infections in California since 2015. Five travel-associated infections were reported in the last month but none have been reported from Santa Barbara County. No yellow fever mosquitoes *Aedes aegypti*, or Asian tiger mosquitoes, *Ae. albopictus*, have ever been detected in Santa Barbara County, to date.

Sentinel Chicken Flocks

The District currently maintains four sentinel chicken flocks located at the Carpinteria Sanitary District, Goleta Sanitary District, Solvang City Wastewater Treatment Plant, and the Mission Hills Community Services District. There is no flock at the U.S. Forest Service ranger station during the winter.

Although the chicken flocks are on a 4 week sampling regime from November through March due to reduced mosquito activity, they continue to be inspected and their cages cleaned every two weeks. Blood samples were collected on January 7 and 8 and all samples tested negative for the presence of WNV, SLEV and WEE.



Australian backyard mosquito, *Aedes notoscriptus*

As its name implies, this mosquito is native to Australia but is now established in parts of the City of Los Angeles and the neighboring cities of Montebello and Hacienda Heights. The Australian backyard mosquito does very well in urban and suburban areas where larvae can be found in pond, pools, bromeliads, street drains and small containers in yards. It was discovered in Los Angeles in 2014. This mosquito is a close relative of *Aedes aegypti* and *Ae. albopictus* and looks nearly identical to the former but can be distinguished from that species by the presence of a white band on the proboscis (as indicated by the arrow). All 3 of these species are aggressive biters and are very active, even during daylight hours, which make them extremely annoying pests. Their bites can also result in large, itchy welts. Unlike its close relatives, the Australian backyard mosquito does not vector yellow fever, dengue, Zika or chikungunya. However, it is still a concern because it can transmit dog heartworm. In southeastern Australia this mosquito is considered the major pest species of domestic pets.