



MOSQUITO AND VECTOR MANAGEMENT DISTRICT OF SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

DISEASE SURVEILLANCE REPORT

March 2019

Live Mosquito-Borne Virus Surveillance

No mosquito trapping surveys were conducted in March as the 2019 mosquito trapping season has not started. Favorable conditions for mosquito breeding were present in some areas because of accumulation of standing water after rains. Staff conducted inspections within our enhanced services areas in the southern coastal communities and treated for mosquito larvae when necessary.

West Nile Virus Dead Bird Submissions

There were no Dead Bird Hotline notifications and no West Nile virus (WNV) activity was detected in Santa Barbara County. Three human cases of WNV infection in California have been reported in 2019 as of April 3.

St. Louis Encephalitis Virus Activity

As of April 1, the California Department of Public Health has not reported any cases of SLEV disease in California in 2019. SLEV activity has never been confirmed in Santa Barbara County.

Zika Virus and Invasive *Aedes* Mosquito Update

As of March 1, 2019, there have been 708 travel-associated Zika virus infections in California since 2015. Six new infections were reported in February but none were from Santa Barbara County. Updated information for the month of March was not yet available from the California Dept. of Public Health as of April 4. Neither yellow fever mosquitoes, *Aedes aegypti*, nor 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. Blood samples were collected from the four active flocks on March 4 and 5 and all samples tested negative for the presence of WNV, SLEV and WEE.



Black Salt Marsh Mosquito - *Aedes taeniorhynchus*

Locally, this mosquito species is commonly found at the Carpinteria Salt Marsh and Goleta Slough but adults can sometimes be found more than ten miles from their breeding sites. Mammals, including humans, are the main host. Female black salt marsh mosquitoes are active both day and night. Although they are aggressive biters they are not a major disease vector. Females lay their eggs on the soil in marshy areas which hatch when immersed during extra-high tides and when temperatures are warm enough (typically late April through October). During new or full moons, tides will rise above six feet leaving stagnant pools of water around the inland edges of the salt marshes. These pools provide excellent mosquito breeding sites. Our technicians inspect and treat these areas of the salt marshes a few days after each of these extra-high tides.