



**MOSQUITO and VECTOR MANAGEMENT DISTRICT  
of Santa Barbara County**

**DISEASE SURVEILLANCE REPORT**

**July 2019**

**Live Mosquito-Borne Virus Surveillance**

Mosquito activity has increased in some areas as daily temperatures have become warmer in the latter half of the month.

Location	Date	Number of Mosquitoes	Number of Traps	Mosquitoes per Trap Night	Pools Submitted	Result
<b>Santa Barbara County</b>						
Lake Los Carneros*	7/9 – 7-10	342	12	28.5	7	Negative
UCSB Bluffs*	7/15 – 7/16	1,219	12	102	22	Pending

\*Encephalitis Virus Survey (CO<sub>2</sub>) trap

**West Nile Virus Dead Bird Submissions**

There were two calls to the Dead Bird Hotline for Santa Barbara County but neither bird was deemed suitable for testing. Results were negative for a dead crow found in Los Alamos in late June. No other West Nile virus activity was detected in the county. There have been 2 reported cases of human WNV infection in California this year (one each in Imperial and San Bernardino Counties) as of July 26.

**St. Louis Encephalitis Virus Activity**

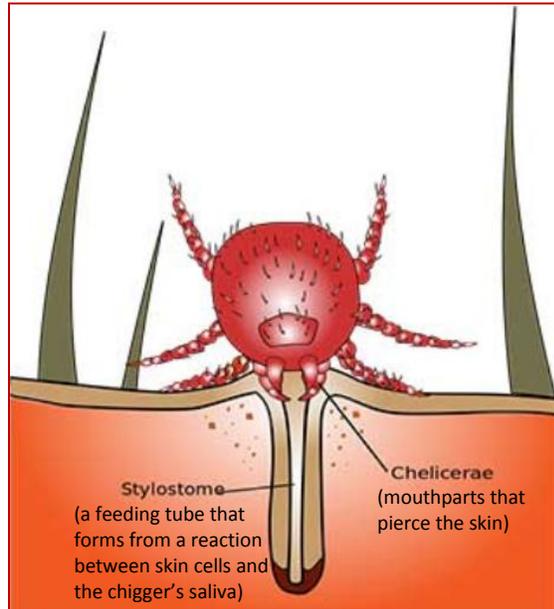
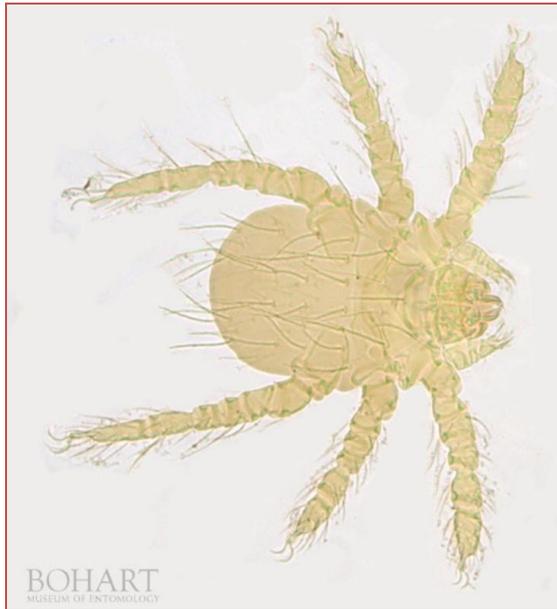
As of July 31, the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) has not reported any human cases of SLEV disease in California this year but 45 positive mosquito pools were reported from Fresno, Kern, Riverside and Tulare counties. SLEV activity has never been confirmed in Santa Barbara County.

**Zika Virus and Invasive *Aedes* Mosquito Update**

The California Department of Public Health releases their Zika reports on the first Friday of the month. As of July 5, there have been 724 travel-associated Zika virus infections in California since 2015. Two new infections were reported in June. 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 5 sentinel chicken flocks in Santa Barbara County located at the Carpinteria Sanitary District, Goleta Sanitary District, Mission Hills Community Services District, Los Prietos Ranger Station in the Los Padres National Forest and the Solvang City Wastewater Treatment Plant. Blood samples collected on 7/9, 7/10, 7/22, and 7/23 all tested negative for the presence of WNV, SLEV and Western Equine Encephalitis virus.



### Chiggers, *Trombicula* and related species

Chiggers are the parasitic larval stage of mites called Trombiculids. Adult and nymphal stage mites are not parasitic. Chiggers feed on a variety of small animals but we are not natural hosts so human infestations are accidental. Chiggers do not feed on blood or burrow into the skin of their hosts. Instead, they insert their mouthparts into the host's skin and enjoy a meal of skin cells partially digested by their saliva. The opening of hair follicles is a preferred feeding site. The bites and saliva cause an allergic reaction with small, irritating welts with intense burning and itching. On humans, bites usually occur on the legs and where clothing binds tightly to the body such as around the sock line, waist and underarms. Prime chigger habitats are areas where rodents are abundant with scrub vegetation, brush thickets, grassy areas, and along the margins of swamps. Prevention includes wearing long pants tucked into the socks, using repellents, and not walking through vegetation.