



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

**DISEASE SURVEILLANCE REPORT**

**August 2019**

**Live Mosquito-Borne Virus Surveillance**

Although many sources of standing and stagnant water created from last winter’s rains and the late rains in May have dried up, large bodies of water such as lakes, ponds and coastal marshes continue to serve as mosquito breeding sources. Mosquitoes continue to emerge from spot sources such as fountains, ornamental ponds, various types of containers in yards, neglected swimming pools, etc. and in flood channels, drainage pipes, storm drains, pockets in creek beds, etc. fed by “urban drool” (water runoff from irrigation, leaks, vehicle and sidewalk/driveway washing, etc.).

Location	Date	Number of Mosquitoes	Number of Traps	Mosquitoes per Trap Night	Pools Submitted	Result
<b>Santa Barbara County</b>						
UCSB/SB Airport Bluffs*	8/5 – 8/6	1,494	12	124	31	Negative
UCSB North Campus Open Space*	8/6 - 8/7	1,145	10	114	21	Negative
Carpinteria Salt Marsh*	8/19 – 8/20	79	17	4.6	2	Negative
Andree Clark Bird Refuge* (next to the zoo)	8/21 – 8/22	54	10	5.4	2	Negative
Apartments - Orella St.**	7/25 – 8/22	3	1	0.2	0	-
El Estero Wastewater Treatment Plant	8/26 – 8/27	490	12	41		8
<b>San Luis Obispo County</b>						
Laguna Lake Park*	8/27 – 8/28	521	3	174	9	Negative
Water Treatment Plant*	8/27 – 8-28	29	2	14.5	2	Negative
Islay Park*	8/27 – 8-28	45	6	7.5	6	Negative
Sinsheimer Park*	8/27 – 8-28	0	2	0	0	-

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

\*\* BG Sentinel Trap

**West Nile Virus Dead Bird Submissions and Activity**

A local resident reported a dead baby bird to the Dead Bird Hotline but it was determined that it didn’t meet the criteria for testing. 91 dead birds from 13 counties have tested positive for WNV in 2019. Although WNV activity has not been detected in our county, to date, activity increased statewide in August. As of August 30, there have been 57 reported cases of human WNV infection in California this year from the following counties: Butte (3), Fresno (27), Imperial (3), Kern (3), Los Angeles (4), Riverside (2), San Bernardino (2) San Diego (3), San Joaquin (2), Solano (1), Stanislaus (1), Tulare (6).

**St. Louis Encephalitis Virus Activity**

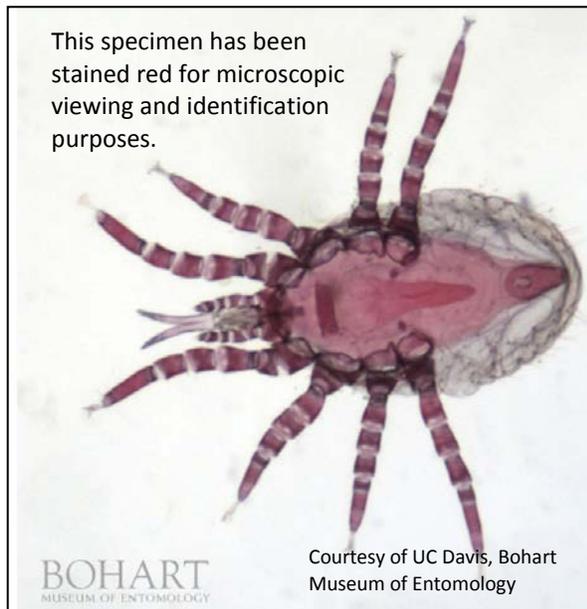
Three human cases of SLEV (one in Fresno County, 2 in Imperial County) were reported to the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) in August. 45 positive mosquito pools were reported from Fresno, Kern, Riverside and Tulare counties. SLEV activity has never been confirmed in Santa Barbara County.

## Zika Virus and Invasive *Aedes* Mosquito Update

CDPH releases their Zika reports on the first Friday of the month. As of September 6, there have been 730 travel-associated Zika virus infections in California since 2015. One new infection has been reported since August 2. Neither yellow fever mosquitoes, *Aedes aegypti*, nor Asian tiger mosquitoes, *Ae. albopictus* (both known vectors of the Zika virus) have ever been detected in Santa Barbara County, to date. However, invasive *Aedes* continue to spread within the state. In August, *Ae. aegypti* was found for the first time in San Joaquin and Placer counties. Invasive *Aedes* are also present in these counties: Los Angeles, Orange, San Diego, Riverside, San Bernardino, Imperial, Kern, Kings, Fresno, Madera, Merced, Tulare and Stanislaus.

## 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 8/5, 8/6, 8/19, and 8/20 all tested negative for the presence of WNV, SLEV and Western Equine Encephalitis virus.



Northern fowl mite, *Ornithonyssus sylviarum*

Though very small, bird mites, as they're commonly called, can cause big problems. These mites feed on birds and live on the host and in the host nest. When the birds abandon the nest, the mites will leave in search of another host. If the nest is attached or close to the outside of a building, the mites sometimes find their way indoors. Although we are not appropriate hosts, hungry mites will bite and feed on human blood. Bites can appear anywhere on the body but often occur behind the knees, where the skin is warm and damp, and where clothing binds tightly to the body, such as at sock, undergarment and belt lines. Bites can result in intense itching and discomfort. Because humans are poor hosts the mites will die out on their own after a few weeks. Bird mites are tiny – slightly larger than a period on a printed page – making them very hard to see and find. This can make people “crazy” when they have no idea what's biting them. Larger infestations may be seen as a mass of moving specks.

