



MOSQUITO and VECTOR MANAGEMENT DISTRICT of Santa Barbara County

DISEASE SURVEILLANCE REPORT

December 2019

West Nile Virus Activity

No dead birds were reported to the Dead Bird Hotline. The Hotline is not currently taking live calls during the winter but citizens can file a report online at: http://www.westnile.ca.gov/report_wnv.php. Callers to the hotline will be directed to file an online report as well. The District will pick up dead birds for testing during this winter if necessary.

The number of human WNV cases in California increased from 196 to 214, of which six have been fatal. As of December 20, 25 counties had reported human WNV infection: Alameda (1), Amador (1), Butte (5), Colusa (1), Contra Costa (1), Fresno (50), Imperial (3), Kern (28), Kings (3), Los Angeles (31), Madera (3), Merced (10), Orange (5), Placer (1), Riverside (12), Sacramento (4), San Bernardino (7), San Diego (2), San Joaquin (7), San Luis Obispo (2), Santa Clara (1), Solano (1), Stanislaus (16), Tulare (17) and Ventura (2).

There have been 15 reported cases of infected horses in 12 counties this year: Fresno (2), Kern (2), Madera (1), Merced (1), Riverside (1), Sacramento (1), San Bernardino (1), San Joaquin (1), Stanislaus (2), Tulare (1) Tuolumne (1) and Ventura (1).

No WNV activity of any kind has been detected in Santa Barbara County this year, to date.

St. Louis Encephalitis Virus Activity

The California Department of Public Health did not report any new human cases of SLEV infection in California. There were 6 reported human cases of SLEV illness in 2019 from 4 counties: Fresno (2), Imperial (2), Kern (1), and Stanislaus (1). No positive mosquito pools were reported in December. There were 356 positive mosquito pools reported in 2019 from 12 counties: Fresno (58), Imperial (5), Kern (56), Kings (4), Los Angeles (2), Madera (5), Merced (2), Orange (3), Riverside (108), San Bernardino (4), Stanislaus (13), and Tulare (96). SLEV activity has never been confirmed in Santa Barbara County, to date.

Zika Virus and Invasive *Aedes* Mosquito Update

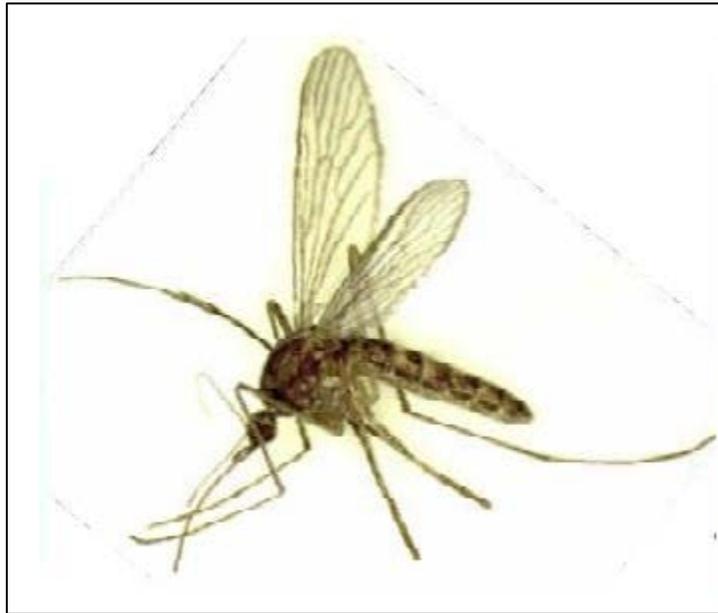
As of January 1, 2020 there have been 745 confirmed travel-associated Zika virus infections in California since 2015. Forty (40) cases were reported in 2019. There was 1 new infection reported in California during December. Neither yellow fever mosquitoes, *Aedes aegypti*, nor Asian tiger mosquitoes, *Ae. albopictus* (both known vectors of the Zika virus) have ever been detected in Santa Barbara County, to date. However, invasive *Aedes* are present in the following counties: Los Angeles, Orange, San Diego, Riverside, San Bernardino, Imperial, Kern, Kings, Fresno, Madera, Merced, San Joaquin, Placer, Sacramento, Stanislaus and Tulare.

Western Equine Encephalitis

There was no reported WEE activity in California for December.

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. No blood samples were collected in December.



Large winter mosquito, *Culiseta inornata*

At nearly a half inch long, this is the largest mosquito known in Santa Barbara County. It is found throughout California. Large winter mosquitoes overwinter as adult females which lay their eggs on the surfaces of sunlit ponds, irrigation ditches and canals in agricultural fields, rainwater pools, salt marshes, neglected swimming pools and sometimes in containers of water. Females are active from dusk to dawn and feed on large mammals, especially cattle. When populations of these mosquitoes are high they will attack humans which makes these mosquitoes especially annoying because they are so big. The large winter mosquito does not vector West Nile or St. Louis Encephalitis viruses and is not considered to be a major disease vector.