



## MOSQUITO and VECTOR MANAGEMENT DISTRICT of Santa Barbara County

# DISEASE SURVEILLANCE REPORT

January 2020

### 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](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).

In 2019 there were 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 has not reported any information yet on SLEV activity in 2020. Last year there were 6 reported human cases of SLEV illness from Fresno (2), Imperial (2), Kern (1), and Stanislaus (1) counties. No positive mosquito pools were reported in December. In 2019 there were 356 positive mosquito pools reported from these 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 travel-associated Zika virus infections in California since 2015. Forty (40) cases were reported in 2019. Only one new infection in California was reported in 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 spreading across the state and 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 January.

### 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. Blood samples collected on January 21 and 22 tested negative for WNV, SLEV and WEE.



Cool weather mosquito, *Culiseta incidens*

A large mosquito at almost ½” long, this species is locally abundant in coastal areas and is found throughout California. Although it’s not known to be a major vector of mosquito-borne pathogens, it can be very annoying due to its size. Both larvae and adults are abundant in the cooler months of the year. This species breeds in a wide variety of habitats including both fresh and brackish water, artificial containers, catch basins, and neglected hot tubs and swimming pools. Females are most active at dawn and dusk and readily feed on mammals as well as humans. The wings of this species are somewhat distinct with patches of dark scales on the wing veins. This species is virtually identical to another large mosquito species, *Cs. particeps*, and is only distinguished by having bare cross-veins on the wings while *Cs. particeps* has cross-veins with scales.

