



Riverside County
Public Health

Susan D. Harrington, M.S., R.D., Director
Cameron Kaiser, M.D., Public Health Officer

Public Health Advisory - West Nile Virus

September 15, 2015

SITUATIONAL UPDATE

As of September 9, 2015, 123 human cases of West Nile Virus (WNV) infections have been reported in California. Eighteen cases and one WNV associated fatality have been reported for Riverside County compared to seven cases for the same time period in 2014. Of the cases reported in 2015, 17 were identified as neuro-invasive disease. Surveillance testing conducted by Coachella Valley Mosquito and Vector Control in August 2015, identified St. Louis encephalitis virus (SLEV) in six mosquito samples. However, no human SLEV cases have been identified to date in Riverside County. A WNV map can be found at <http://www.rivcoph.org/Home/WestNileMap.aspx>

ACTIONS REQUESTED OF ALL CLINICIANS

The diagnosis of WNV infection is based on a high index of clinical suspicion and specific laboratory tests. It is highly recommended that clinicians test for WNV whenever there is a history of unexplained encephalitis, meningitis or *unexplained febrile illness* lasting 7 days or more; especially if the fever is accompanied by a headache, rash, swollen lymph nodes, eye pain and nausea or vomiting.

What specimens are needed?

- Acute serum specimen (≥ 2 cc) and,
- If a lumbar puncture is performed, 1-2 cc of cerebrospinal fluid is required for testing.
- Contact the Public Health Laboratory at (951) 358-5070 for questions on specimen submission.

Why test? Testing differentiates WNV from other conditions (enterovirus, other arboviral diseases). Testing results offer anticipatory guidance--both WNV neuro-invasive disease and WNV fever patients can have lingering symptoms and knowing the underlying etiology is helpful for the patient and family members.

Prevention

It is important to educate patients about preventive measures.

- **DRAIN:** Mosquitoes lay their eggs on standing water. Young mosquitoes grow in the water. Get rid of standing water around the home. Empty water out of buckets, old tires, flower pots, and toys.
- **DEFEND:** Use an EPA-registered insect repellent with DEET, picaridin, IR3535 or oil of lemon eucalyptus in it. Put the repellent on your skin that is not covered by clothes. Follow the directions carefully.
- **DUSK and DAWN:** Mosquitoes that transmit West Nile virus bite in the early morning and early evening hours, and sometimes throughout the night. When outside in the early morning or evening hours, wear long pants and a long sleeved shirt.

West Nile Virus cases are reportable to Department of Public Health within one day of identification. Suspect and confirmed reports can be faxed to (951) 358-5102, or be submitted through CalREDIE for participating medical providers. For questions regarding reporting or testing of suspect WNV cases, please contact Disease Control at (951) 358-5107.

Disease Control Branch
4065 County Circle Drive, Riverside, California 92503
Phone (951) 358-5107 - Fax (951) 358-5102 - TDD (951) 358-5124
www.rivcoph.org