



# CD Connection

Orange County Communicable Disease News

Health Care Agency/Public Health Services - Epidemiology

August 27, 2012

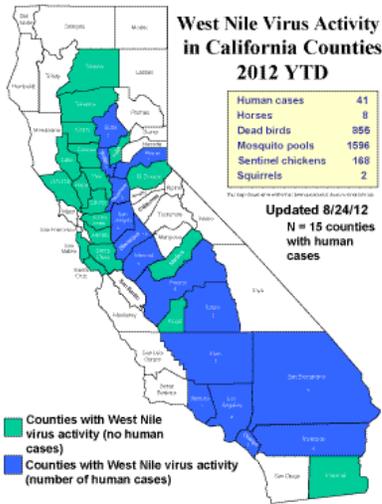
1719 W. 17th St. Santa Ana, CA 92706, (714) 834-8180

## West Nile Virus

**Increased West Nile Virus (WNV) activity has been noted in many areas of the U.S. in recent weeks, including Orange County. Consider WNV infection in your patients with aseptic meningitis, encephalitis, or prolonged fever.**

- **WNV – Orange County:** So far this season, two cases of WNV and one asymptomatic WNV-positive blood donor have been reported in Orange County. The number of birds and mosquitoes testing positive for WNV has also increased in recent weeks. The peak of WNV season is typically in August and September in Orange County.

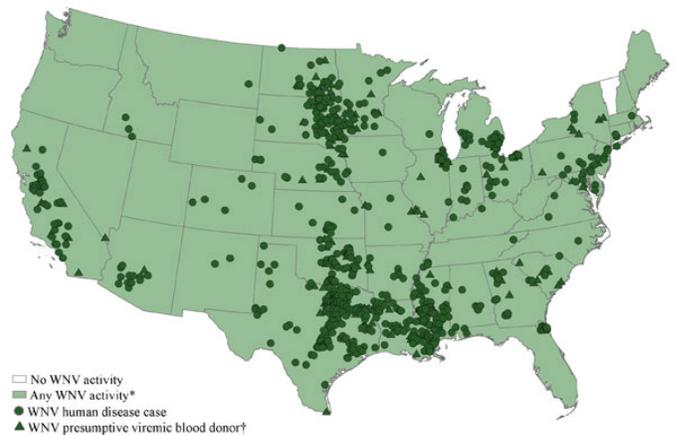
- **Consider WNV in your patients and submit specimens for WNV testing** (serum WNV IgM and IgG; in addition, CSF IgM for West Nile Neuroinvasive Disease cases). Testing is available through commercial laboratories and through OC Public Health on a case-by-case basis. **For clinical management:** <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/clinicians/>.
- **Report all cases of West Nile Virus infection to Orange County Public Health** by phone (714-834-8180) or fax (714-834-8196) within one working day.
- **Educate your patients, staff, and family about WNV prevention – avoiding mosquito bites!** Fact sheets are available in [English](#) (225 KB/2 pages) and [Spanish](#) (371 KB/2 pages)



- **WNV -- California:** A total of 41 human cases have been reported so far this season from 34 counties, including two deaths. Of the 41 cases, 24 (59%) had neuroinvasive illness. Dates of symptom onset for cases ranged from May 23-August 12, 2012.

- **WNV – United States:** As of August 21, 47 states have reported West Nile virus activity in people, birds, or mosquitoes. A total of 1118 cases of West Nile virus disease in people, including 41 deaths, have been reported to CDC. Total cases reported thus far in 2012 is the highest number of West Nile virus disease cases reported to CDC through the third week in August since West Nile virus was first detected in the United States in 1999. Approximately 75 percent of the cases have been reported from 5 states (Texas, Mississippi, Louisiana, South Dakota, and Oklahoma) and almost half of all cases have been reported from Texas.

West Nile virus (WNV) activity reported to ArboNET, by state, United States, 2012 (as of August 21, 2012)



**Reporting dead birds helps us track West Nile virus in the community. To report a dead bird, contact Orange County Vector Control at (714) 971-2421 or (949) 654-2421.**

For comments or suggestions on this newsletter, please contact Sandra Okubo, MPH, or Dr. Michele Cheung at (714) 834-8180. To receive this newsletter by email, please contact us at [epi@ochca.com](mailto:epi@ochca.com).