



MOSQUITO and VECTOR MANAGEMENT DISTRICT of SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

DISEASE SURVEILLANCE REPORT

June 2026

Santa Barbara County Vector-borne Disease Surveillance

The West Nile Virus Dead Bird Hotline received four reports of dead birds in the County in June, and one of them was tested for West Nile Virus (WNV) with a negative result. Two reported birds were disqualified due to their species, and the other could not be picked-up in a timely manner. Mosquito traps were set out in Santa Ynez where three dead crows were reported in May, but the mosquito samples tested negative for WNV.

Santa Barbara County Trapping

Location	Date	Number of Mosquitoes	Type of Trap	# of Traps	Mosquitoes per Trap Night	Pools Submitted	WSW* Virus Test Result
SBAir Area L-M	6/2-6/4	70	Gravid	1	35	2	Negative
UCSB/SBAir bluffs	6/2-6/4	41	Gravid	2	10.25	2	Negative
Painted Cave, San Marcos Pass	6/3-6/4	13 156 black flies	EVS	7	1.9	1	Negative
Cold Spring Tavern, San Marcos Pass	6/3-6/4	8 18 black flies	EVS	2	4	0	--
Santa Ynez County Park	6/3-6/4	13	EVS	4	3.25	2	Negative
El Estero Water Resource Center, SB	6/9-6/12	244	Gravid	2	48.8	5	Negative
El Estero Water Resource Center, SB	6/11-6/12	35	EVS	3	11.7	2	Negative
West Micheltorena, Santa Barbara	6/11-6/12	15***	EVS	3	5	1	Negative
Kenwood x Los Manos Rd, SB	6/11-6/12	3	EVS	3	1	0	--
Picacho Ln, Montecito	6/11-6/12	2	EVS	3	0.7	1	Negative
Andre Clark Bird Refuge	6/11-6/12	10	EVS	3	3.7	2	Negative
Andre Clark Bird Refuge	6/8-6/12	328	Gravid	3	27.3	5	Negative
W Sola St, SB	6/17-6/24	7	BGS2	1	1	0	--
West Micheltorena, Santa Barbara	6/15-7/7	5****	BGS2	1	0.2	0	--

BGS2=Biogents Sentinel 2; BGP=Biogents Pro; EVS=encephalitis surveillance trap (CO²)

*WSW=West Nile (WNV), St. Louis Encephalitis (SLE), AND Western Equine Encephalitis (WEE)

**Color indicates the virus-transmitting ability of some or all of the mosquito species caught in the traps:

Purple = high (example: *Aedes aegypti*, *Culex tarsalis*); Aqua = moderate; Tan = low.

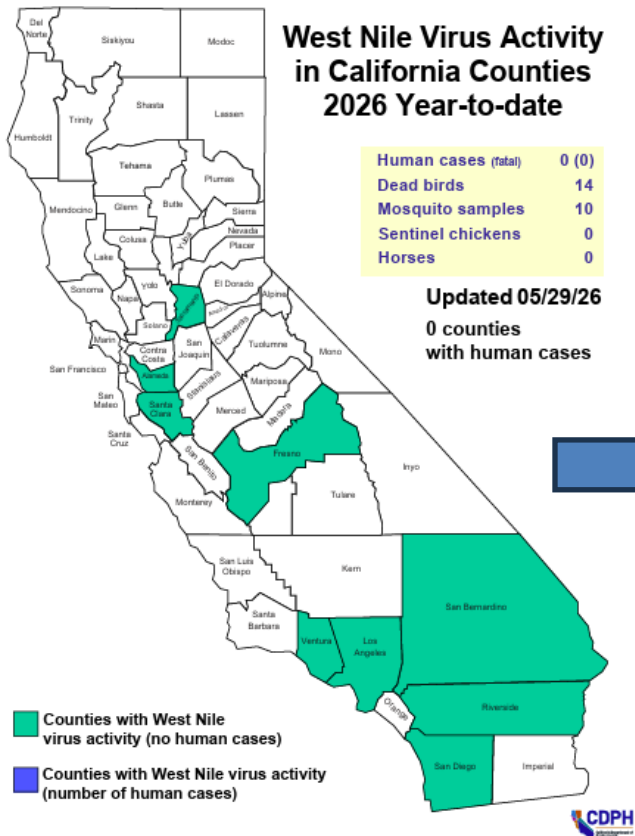
For specific trap collection data, please email a request to: info@mvmdistrict.org.

*** 11 female *Aedes notoscriptus*

**** 1 female, 1 male *Aedes notoscriptus*

California Vector-borne Disease Surveillance

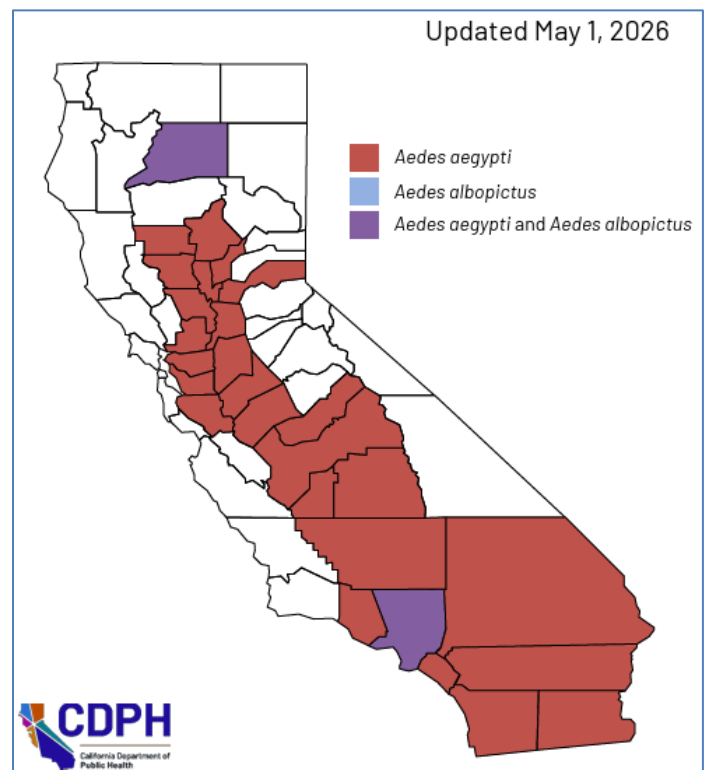
So far this year, two people have tested positive for WNV. Two mosquito samples in Riverside and Imperial Counties have tested positive for St. Louis encephalitis virus.



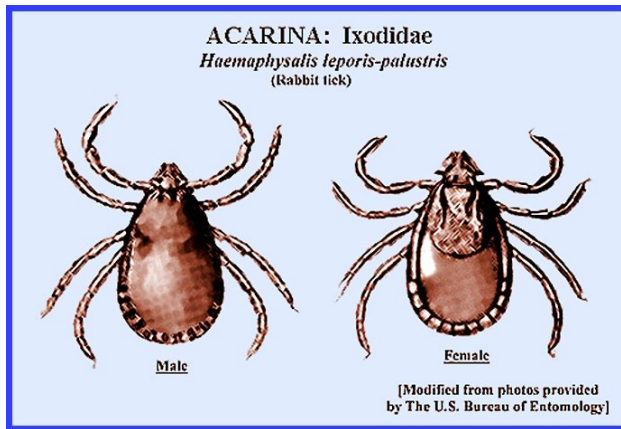
Update on Invasive *Aedes* Mosquito in California

Invasive *Aedes notoscriptus*, the Australian backyard mosquito, was identified from a residence in Santa Barbara's Westside neighborhood on March 12. The District has collected a total of 46 female and 7 male *Aedes notoscriptus*. *Aedes aegypti* is found in 28 California counties and *Aedes albopictus* is found in two.

In 2025, the CA Dept. of Public Health reports 6 locally-transmitted cases of dengue virus in California (five of them located in the City of La Puente, Los Angeles County). *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes, capable of vectoring dengue, Zika, and chikungunya viruses, are common in the Greater Los Angeles area. One mosquito sample collected in Greater L.A. has also tested positive for dengue virus. This is the first official record ever of dengue virus identified from a mosquito collected in California. In 2024, there were 18 locally-transmitted dengue cases. As of July 1, there have been 18 travel-



related human dengue cases, one chikungunya case, and no cases of Zika virus in California this year. One travel-related case of dengue virus has been recorded in Santa Barbara County this year.



Rabbit ticks keep the bacteria circulating in the wild



Engorged female dog tick, *Dermacentor similis*

***Rickettsia* CA6269** ***Rickettsia* lanei**

Two years after the California Department of Public Health recognized the bacteria *Rickettsia* CA6269 as a human pathogen and named it *Rickettsia lanei*, a resident of Northern California was hospitalized with the tick-borne infection. There have only been four known human cases of the disease, and three of them occurred in Northern California (in 2008, 2023, and 2026). Symptoms include headache, muscle aches, malaise, diarrhea, fever, and rash. Because symptoms are similar to Rocky Mountain spotted fever (*Rickettsia rickettsii*), it is suspected that more cases have been misdiagnosed. A specific molecular diagnostic test was developed in 2024 to differentiate between *R. lanei* and other *Rickettsia* bacteria. Prompt treatment for either species with an antibiotic is needed to prevent kidney injury, respiratory complications, coma, or death.

The District advises to avoid tick bites by wearing repellent, staying on hiking trails, avoiding contact with vegetation, and checking for ticks after outdoor activity. Pets should also be inspected for ticks after visiting wilderness areas. To remove an attached tick, grip it with tweezers close to the skin and pull straight out (no twisting, chemicals, smothering with oils or ointments, or fire should be used to remove ticks).

* Visit <https://www.mvmdistrict.org/tick-talk> for more information about ticks.



Adult Female



Adult Male



Nymph



Larvae

Pacific Coast Tick, *Dermacentor occidentalis*. TickSafety.com

<https://www.sfgate.com/bayarea/article/tick-borne-disease-california-22298293.php>