



MOSQUITO and VECTOR MANAGEMENT DISTRICT of SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

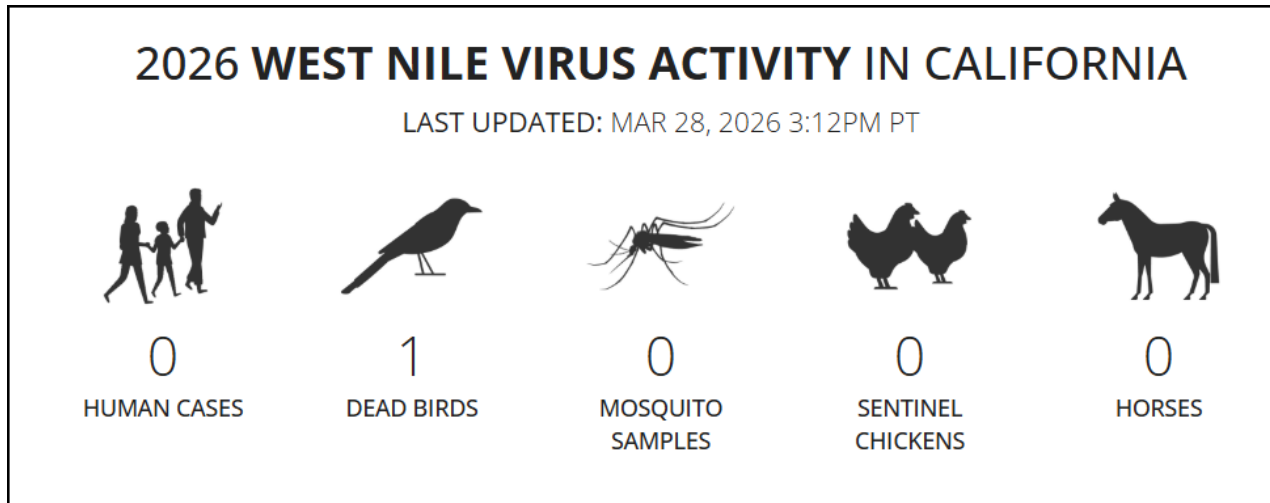
DISEASE SURVEILLANCE REPORT

March 2026

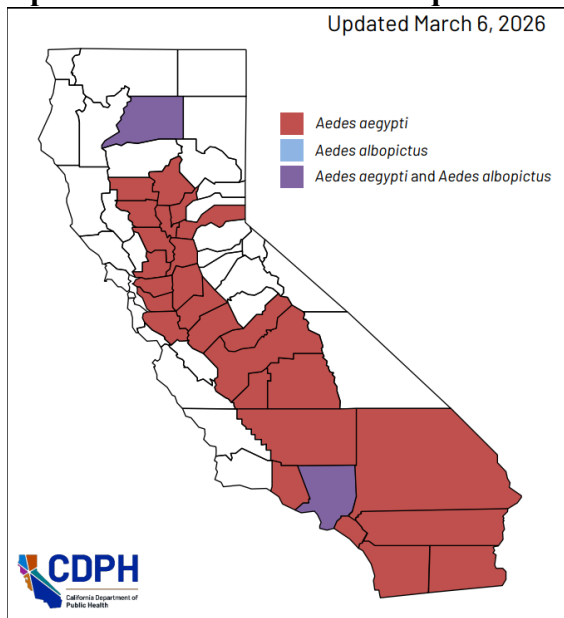
Santa Barbara County Vector-borne Disease Surveillance

Mosquito trapping for the 2026-27 season began in March as mosquitoes were very active due to large rainstorms in January and February and unseasonably warm weather.

California Vector-borne Disease Surveillance



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. *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). Non-native *Aedes* 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 March 1, there have been three travel-related human dengue cases and no cases of Zika virus or chikungunya virus in California this year.

Santa Barbara County Vector-borne Disease Surveillance

Location	Date	Number of Mosquitoes	Type of Trap	# of Traps	Mosquitoes per Trap Night	Pools Submitted	WSW* Virus Test Result
Santa Barbara, Micheltorena St. 93101	3/24-3/25	10***	BGS-2	7	1.4	0	---
Santa Barbara, Micheltorena St. 93101	3/19-3/20	6****	EVS	6	1	0	---
UCSB/SBAIR Bluffs	3/24-3/25	1,131	EVS	10	113.1	15	Pending

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

*WSW=West Nile, St. Louis Encephalitis, AND Western Equine Encephalitis

**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.

*** 7 *Aedes notoscriptus*

**** 2 *Aedes notoscriptus*

Dog Heartworm

Dirofilaria immitis

Dog heartworm is caused by the roundworm *Dirofilaria immitis*, which is vectored by the bite of a mosquito.

After infection of a dog or other canine, immature worms travel in the bloodstream to the dog's heart and lungs. After about three months, the worms develop into adults, mate, and begin producing tiny offspring that can be taken-up in the blood by the next mosquito bite. Heartworms can grow to a length of 6 to 12 inches!

Infected dogs may show rapid tiring, coughing, shortness of breath, and/or weight loss; heartworm can be fatal. Fortunately, there are oral medications for dogs to prevent heartworm disease.

Since the primary vector is the tree-hole mosquito, *Aedes sierrensis*, it is especially important to pre-treat dogs that live near wooded areas. Humans, cats, ferrets, and other animals can also be affected as "accidental hosts," but the worm needs to infect a canine to complete its life cycle.

