

MOSQUITO and VECTOR MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
of Santa Barbara County
DISEASE SURVEILLANCE REPORT
March 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 . Callers to the hotline will be directed to file an online report as well. The District will pick up dead birds for testing if necessary. As of March 27, the California Dept. of Public Health (CDPH) has not reported any cases of human WNV infection in California for 2020. No WNV activity of any kind has been detected in Santa Barbara County in 2020, to date

St. Louis Encephalitis Virus Activity

The California Department of Public Health has not reported any SLEV activity in 2020 as of March 6. SLEV activity has never been confirmed in Santa Barbara County, to date.

Zika Virus and Invasive Aedes Mosquito Update

As of February 1, 2020, there have been 746 travel-associated Zika virus infections in California since 2015. Forty (40) cases were reported in 2019. One new infection in California was reported in January. 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 March.

Sentinel Chicken Flocks

The District 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. These flocks will be replaced with new chickens and we will be relocating the flock location at the Carpinteria Sanitary District to the U.S. Forest Service Fire Station in Carpinteria approximately 2 miles away. Blood samples were collected on March 30 and 31, results are pending.



Dermacentor occidentalis

The Pacific Coast tick is one of the most common and widespread ticks in California. Ticks in the genus *Dermacentor* are vectors of *Rickettsia* bacteria which cause several spotted fever group diseases such as Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever. The Pacific Coast tick is the vector for Pacific Coast tick fever which is caused by the recently identified species, *Rickettsia philipii* (originally named *Rickettsia* 364D). The first known case of this disease was found and diagnosed in Lake County, Calif. in 2008. One of the first signs of infection is a small scab, called an “eschar”, that forms at the site of the tick bite several days to a week after being bitten. More serious symptoms develop such as fever, muscle aches, headache and a spotted rash. Rodents, especially squirrels, are the favored host of larval and nymphal Pacific Coast ticks while the adults prefer feeding on humans, deer, horses and cattle. Preventing tick bites is the key to avoid getting infected by tick-borne diseases. Preventive measures when venturing into wilderness areas include using a permethrin-based repellent on clothes and a DEET-based repellent on exposed skin, frequent checking for ticks, staying on trails and avoiding grassy growth and brush.