



MOSQUITO and VECTOR MANAGEMENT DISTRICT of SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

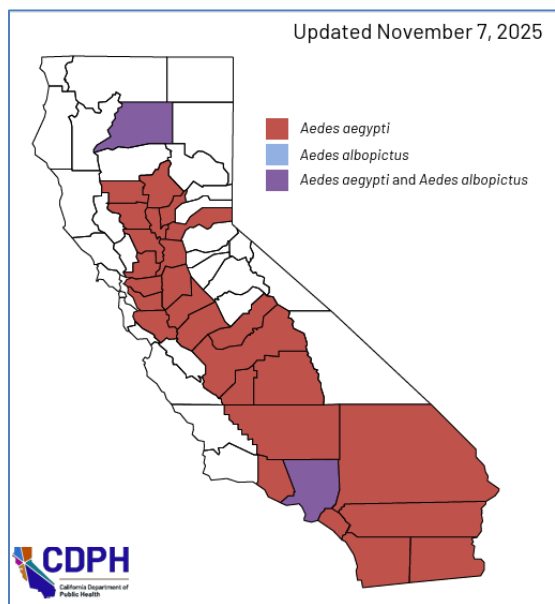
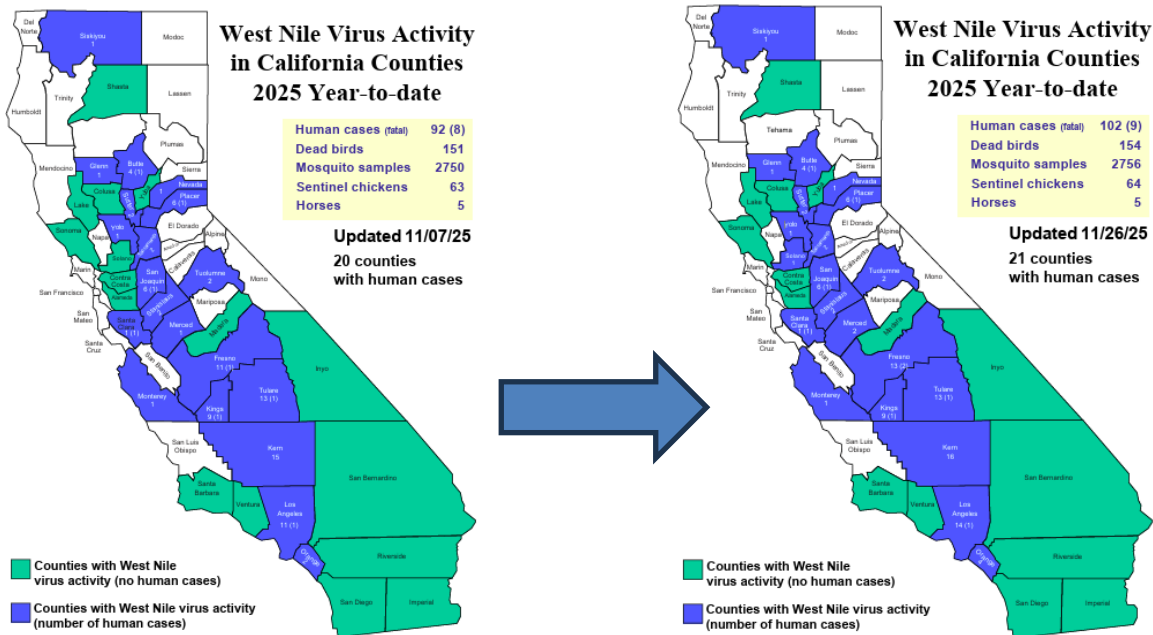
DISEASE SURVEILLANCE REPORT

November 2025

Santa Barbara County Vector-borne Disease Surveillance

A horse diagnosed in August in the Buellton area has been Santa Barbara County's only case of 2025 detection of West Nile virus (WNV). The District set mosquito traps in the vicinity of where the horse is stabled, and the mosquitoes caught tested negative for WNV, Western equine encephalitis virus (WEE), and St. Louis encephalitis virus (SLE). Two dead birds were reported to the WNV hotline in November, but both had been dead too long for testing. WEE and SLE have never been documented in the County.

California Vector-borne Disease Surveillance: Change in WNV activity in November



Update on Invasive *Aedes* Mosquito in California

No invasive *Aedes* species have been detected in Santa Barbara County since May 2021. *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. In 2024, there were 18 locally-transmitted dengue cases. As of November 1, 2025, there have been 138 travel-related human dengue cases and two travel-related cases of Zika virus in California. There has been one travel-related case of dengue virus in Santa Barbara County. There have been 10 travel-related cases of chikungunya virus in California, including one in Santa Barbara County.

Typhus Fever

several similar diseases caused by bacteria in the genus Rickettsia, acquired through the bite of an infected arthropod



Different types of typhus can be vectored by fleas, ticks, mites, or lice

Typhus *Rickettsia*

Several arthropod-vectored bacterial diseases are referred to as “typhus,” and all are treatable with antibiotics.

Fleas Murine typhus, *Rickettsia typhi*, is associated with rodent fleas.

Flea-borne typhus, *Rickettsia felis*, in Southern California is associated with stray cats.

Lice Epidemic typhus, *Rickettsia prowazekii*, is vectored by body lice. It is associated with unsanitary conditions, especially during wars and with homelessness.

Ticks “Spotted fever group” *Rickettsia parkeri* and *R. rickettsii* are sometimes called “typhus.”

Other tick-borne typhus occurs in Africa and Australia.

Mites In Asia, Australia, and the South Pacific, mites can transmit *Orientia tsutsugamushi* (formerly *Rickettsia tsutsugamushi*), which causes scrub typhus.

Symptoms of typhus can include:



High fever, chills.



Cough.



Rash.



Headache or body aches.



Eschar (in scrub typhus).



Swollen lymph nodes.



Nausea, vomiting or stomach pain.



Severe symptoms include confusion, seizures and coma.

Typhoid is a food-borne illness caused by the bacterium *Salmonella typhi*. (“Typhoid Mary” is believed to have infected dozens of people with this in New York City in the early 1900s)