MOSQUITO and VECTOR MANAGEMENT DISTRICT of SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

DISEASE SURVEILLANCE REPORT

April 2026

Santa Barbara County Vector-borne Disease Surveillance

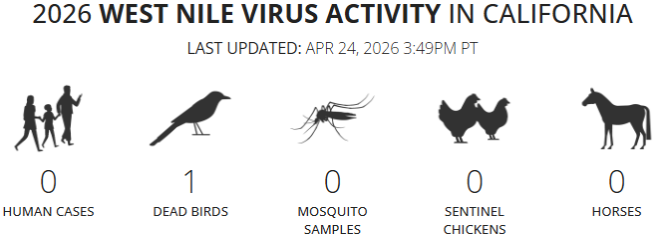
The West Nile Virus Dead Bird Hotline received 20 reports of dead birds in the County, but none of them were testable. Thirteen of the birds were sea or shore birds that were disqualified due to their species, and the rest were dead too long or could not be picked-up in a timely manner.

Santa Barbara County Trapping

Location	Date	Number of Mosquitoes	Type of Trap	# of Traps	Mosquitoes per Trap Night	Pools Submitted	WSW* Virus Test Result
Andre Clark Bird Refuge	4/2-4/3	115	EVS	8	14.4	0	---
Pine St., Old Town Goleta	4/8-4/9	14	EVS	2	6	2	Negative
Park Lane, Montecito	4/8-4/9	4 300 black flies 100 no-see-um	EVS	2	2	0	---
Coal Oil Point UCSB	4/8-4/9	14	EVS	2	7	2	Negative
Ellwood, Goleta	4/8-4/9	234	EVS	2	117	4	Negative
West Micheltorena, Santa Barbara	3/25-4/10	47***	BGS2	1	2.9	0	--
West Valerio, Santa Barbara	4/10-4/14	3	BGS2	1	0.75	0	---
Orcutt Creek	4/16-4/17	18	EVS	4	4.5	2	Pending
Via Santa Maria, Orcutt	4/16-4/17	180	EVS	3	60	5	Pending
Impala Trail, Orcutt	4/16-4/17	0	EVS	3	0	0	---
UCSB/SBAir bluffs	4/28-4/29	490	EVS	12	40.8	7	Pending

BGS2=Biogents Sentinel 2; BGP=Biogents Pro; EVS=encephalitis surveillance trap (CO^2)
*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 .
*** 22 *Aedes notoscriptus*

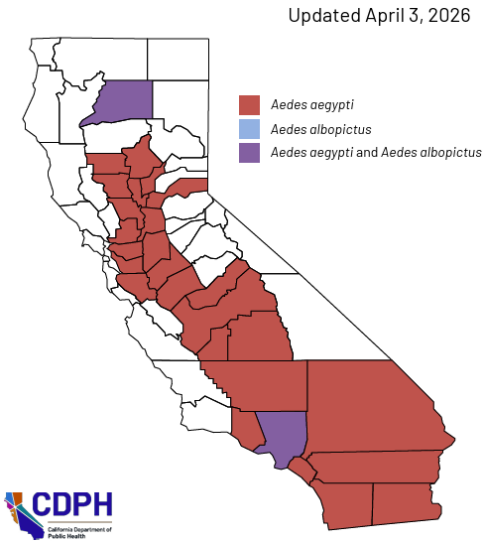
California Vector-borne Disease Surveillance



2025 & 2026 YTD West Nile Virus Comparisons		
	2025	2026
Total No. Dead Bird Reports	2,285	1,343
No. Positive Counties	2	1
No. Human Cases	0	0
No. Positive Dead Birds / No. Tested	7 / 154	1 / 75
No. Positive Mosquito Pools / No. Tested	0 / 3,163	0 / 5,335
No. Seroconversions / No. Tested	0 / 0	0 / 0

Update on Invasive *Aedes* Mosquito in California

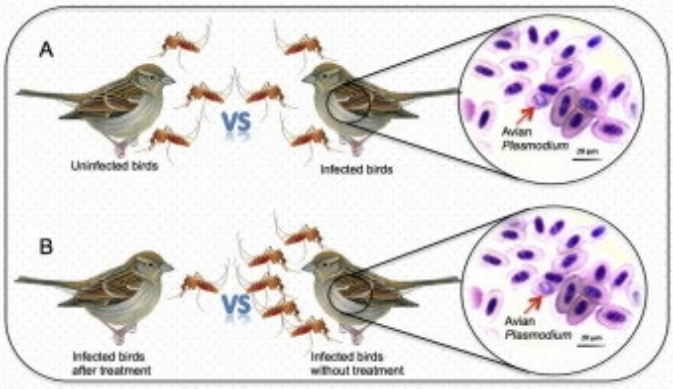
Invasive *Aedes notoscriptus*, the Australian backyard mosquito, was identified from a residence in Santa Barbara's Westside neighborhood on March 12. The District has collected a total of 44 female and 7 male *Aedes notoscriptus*. *Aedes aegypti* is found in 28 California counties and *Aedes albopictus* 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). 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 April 1, there have been five travel-related human dengue cases and no cases of Zika virus or chikungunya virus in California this year.

Avian Malaria
Plasmodium relictum

WNV, SLE, and WEE aren't the only mosquito-borne bird diseases in California. Avian malaria is a bird disease caused by a single-cell protozoan *Plasmodium* parasite that is transmitted from bird to bird by mosquitoes in the genus *Culex*. It does not infect humans. Human malaria parasites are a different species of *Plasmodium*, vectored only by *Anopheles* mosquitoes. Symptoms for infected birds include lethargy, weight loss, a fluffed-up appearance, difficulty breathing, anemia, incoordination, seizures, and vomiting. Depending on the bird species and local immunity, the disease is not usually fatal, but chronic symptoms in recovered birds can reduce their lifespan. Penguins (common in zoos), quail, ducks, pigeons, falcons, and sparrows are the most vulnerable to avian malaria. As in 2024, penguins at the Santa Barbara Zoo have again been infected. Officials in Hawaii have been working to prevent extinction of birds such as the honey-catcher since the pathogen and vector were accidentally introduced to the Hawaiian Islands. Illegally traded pet birds are often infected.



Mosquitoes preferably bit infected sparrows rather than anti-malaria treated infected sparrows.
https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijpara.2017.09.005

A similar protozoan bird parasite, called *Leukocytozoon*, is vectored by blood-feeding black flies in the family *Simuliida*e. Mosquitoes can also mechanically carry avian pox virus from one bird to another. Avian influenza A (H5N1) has been found in mosquitoes, but it cannot be transmitted to another animal through a mosquito bite.