



**MOSQUITO and VECTOR MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
of SANTA BARBARA COUNTY**

DISEASE SURVEILLANCE REPORT

September 2025

Santa Barbara County Vector-borne Disease Surveillance

The CDPH notified the District that a horse in the Buellton area was ill and tested positive for West Nile virus (WNV).* The horse was not up to date with its yearly booster vaccinations. Fortunately, it survived and is recovering from the illness. The District set gravid and EVS 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).

One dead seagull found in Goleta was reported to the state hotline in September but it was rejected for testing because sea gulls are not good amplifying hosts for the virus (very small amounts of virus replicate in them). WEE and SLE have never been documented in the County.

Location	Date	Number of Mosquitoes	Type of Trap	# of Traps	Mosquitoes per Trap Night	Pools Submitted	WSW* Virus Test Result
UCSB/SBAIR Bluffs	9/2-9/3	106	EVS	7	15.1	3	Negative
Hwy 246, between Buellton and Lompoc	9/10-9/11	5	EVS	10	0.5	2	Negative
Hwy 246, between Buellton and Lompoc	9/10-9/11	6	Gravid	3	2.0	2	Negative
Carpinteria Salt Marsh	9/11-9/12	483	EVS	10	48.3	0	--
El Carro, Carpinteria	9/16-9/17	15	EVS	2	7.5	2	Negative
Lake Los Carneros	9/16-9/17	15	EVS	6	2.5	3	Negative
Lake Los Carneros	9/16-9/17	10	Gravid	1	10	1	Negative
Evergreen Park, Goleta	9/16-9/17	10	EVS	3	3.3	1	Negative
Evergreen Park, Goleta	9/16-9/17	25	Gravid	1	25	2	Negative
Bella Vista Park, Goleta	9/16-9/17	0	EVS	1	0	0	--
Bella Vista Park, Goleta	9/16-9/17	48	Gravid	1	48	2	--
Carpinteria Salt Marsh	9/16-9/17	90	EVS	2	45	0	--
El Carro, Carpinteria	9/16-9/17	6	EVS	1	6	1	Negative

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

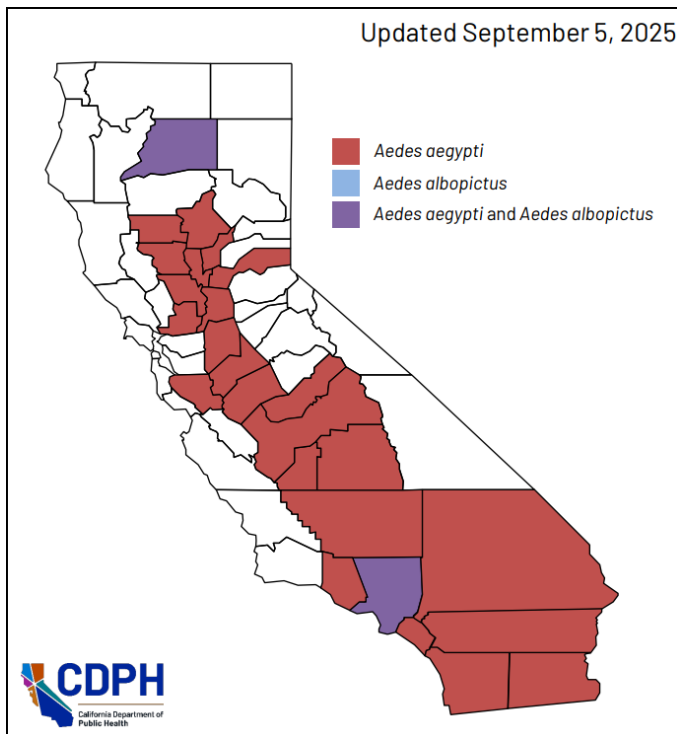
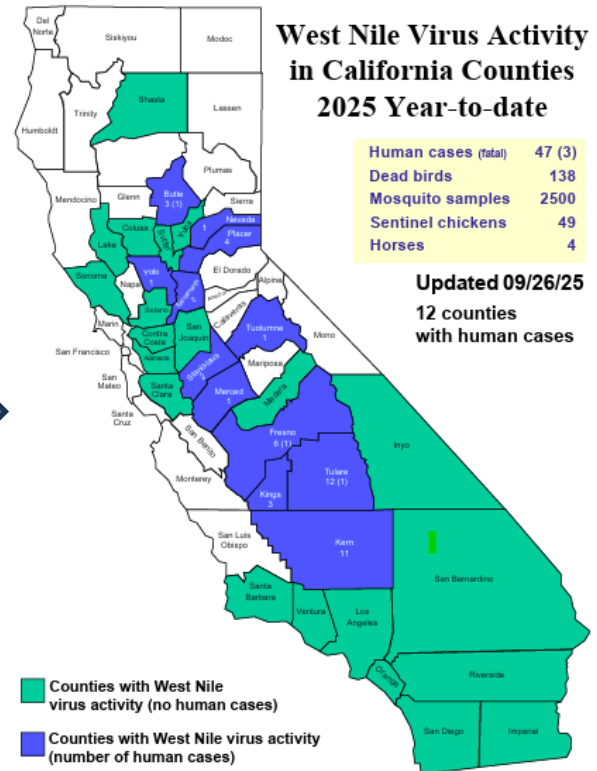
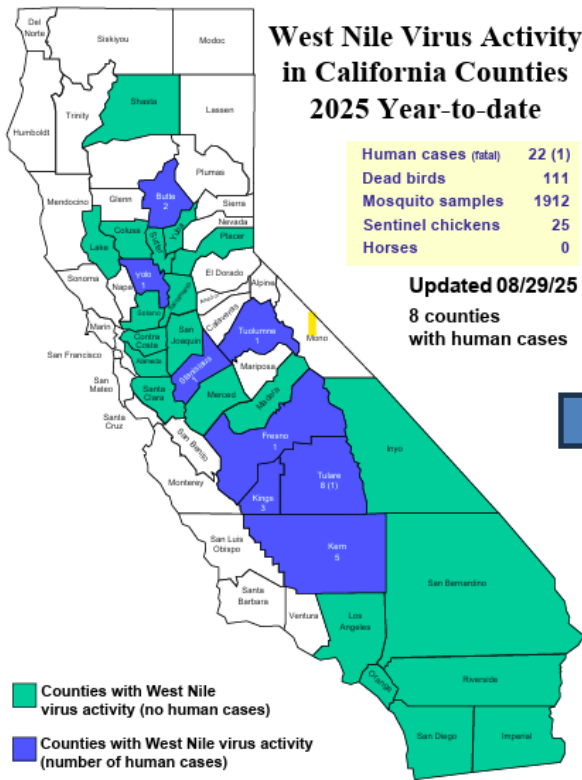
*WSW=West Nile, St. Louis Encephalitis, AND Western Equine Encephalitis

**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.

California Vector-borne Disease Surveillance: Change in WNV activity from July to August



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 26 California counties and *Aedes albopictus* is found in two.

In Fall of 2024, there were **18** locally-transmitted cases of dengue virus in California: Los Angeles County (12), San Bernardino County (1), and San Diego County (4). Non-native *Aedes* mosquitoes, capable of vectoring dengue, Zika, chikungunya, and yellow fever viruses, are common in the Greater Los Angeles area. As of October 1, 2025, there have been 82 travel-related human dengue cases and two cases of Zika virus in California. There has been one travel-related case of dengue virus in Santa Barbara County. There were five cases of travel-related dengue in Santa Barbara County last year. The current number of worldwide dengue cases is above average (about 4 million cases) but is lower than it was at this time last year. There have been five travel-related cases of chikungunya virus in California, including one in

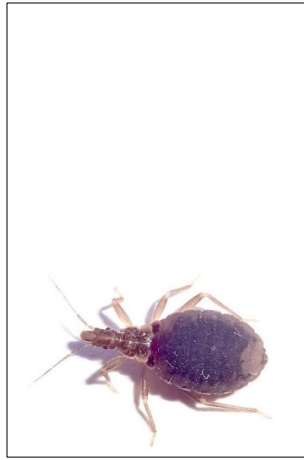
Santa Barbara County. China is currently having the largest chikungunya outbreak ever known with over 7000 cases.

Triatoma protracta, winged adult



Copyright © 2015 petersvensonlund

Triatoma nymph



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Triatoma beak or proboscis



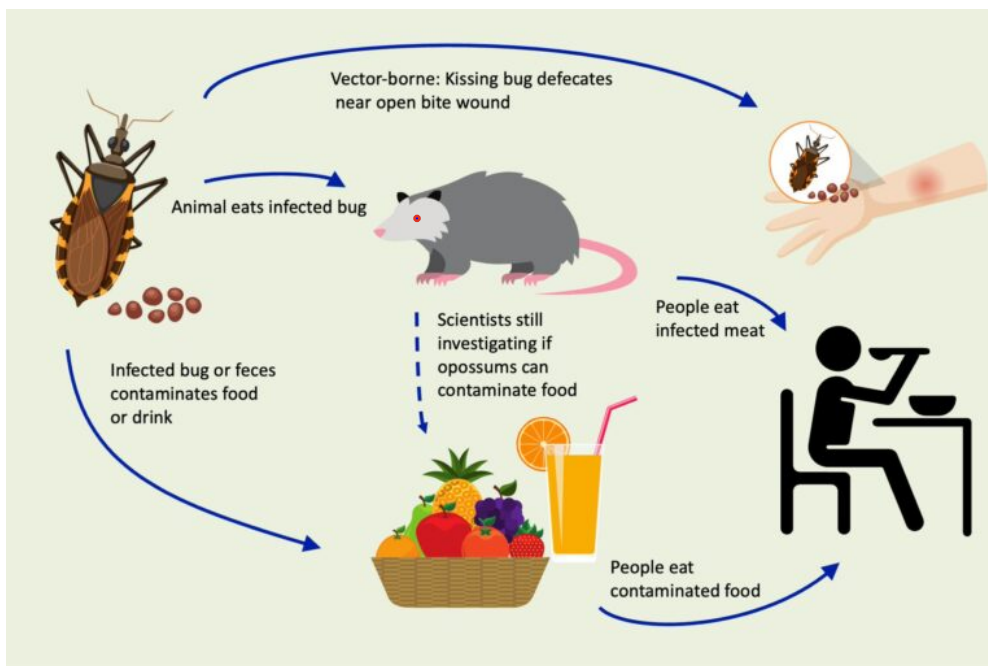
S. Kjos, CDC

Chagas Disease *Trypanosoma cruzi*

Chagas disease, also known as American trypanosomiasis, is caused by the protozoan parasite *Trypanosoma cruzi*. Up to 10 million people in Latin America are infected each year. Increases in the number of locally-acquired cases in eight states in the U.S. has led to public health experts to call for the disease to be considered “endemic,” or naturally occurring and permanently present). It is transmitted by *Triatomine* bugs commonly called kissing bugs. They are relatives of bed bugs that are nocturnal and feed on blood.

Initial symptoms of Chagas Disease, which are only experienced in about 30% of infected people, are Romaña's sign (swollen eyelid), Chagoma (swollen insect bite site), fatigue, headache, and fever. If not treated during the acute phase, the disease can become chronic. Years after initial infection, the nerves of the heart, colon, and intestines may be damaged. The victim may die from heart failure or from blood poisoning caused by months of being unable to defecate due to paralysis of the colon and intestines. There is no vaccine for this disease.

Chagas Disease is not directly transmitted by the bite of a kissing bug but, instead, it is transmitted by contaminated bug feces. Kissing bugs may defecate while they are feeding. While scratching the wound, the victim may contaminate his/her hand with infected feces and rub trypanosome parasites into the wound or later when rubbing an open sore, the eyes, mouth, nose, or other mucous membrane. In North America, it is theorized that Chagas disease is less common because the 11 *Triatoma* species that occur here do not defecate near bite sites. Unfortunately, dogs, humans, and other animals have been infected after eating the bugs or contaminated food.



<https://kissingbugalliance.org>