



MOSQUITO and VECTOR MANAGEMENT DISTRICT of SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

DISEASE SURVEILLANCE REPORT

April 2025

Santa Barbara County Vector-borne Disease Surveillance

Six dead birds from Santa Barbara County were reported to the state hotline in April. Several shorebirds were rejected because they probably died due to domoic acid off the coast. Samples were collected from one barn swallow, and the results are pending. There have been no detections of West Nile virus (WNV) in the County in 2025. St. Louis encephalitis virus (SLE) and Western equine encephalitis virus (WEE) 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
Lompoc/Mission Hills/Vandenberg	4/10-4/11	6	EVS	12	0.5	2	Pending
UCSB/SBAIR Bluffs	4/22-4/23	155	EVS	7	22.3	1	Pending
Shoreline/More Mesa, Goleta Valley	4/29-4/30	162	EVS	12	13.5	0	--

BGS2=Biogents Sentinel 2

BGP=Biogents Pro

EVS=encephalitis surveillance trap (CO²)

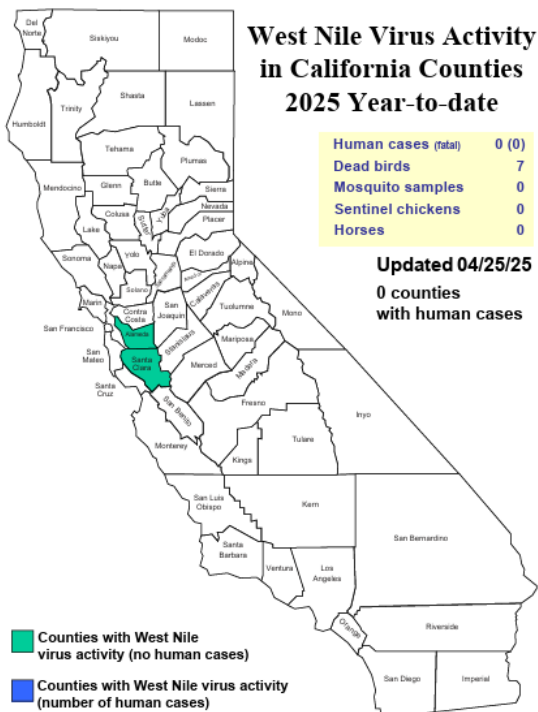
WSW=WNV, SLEV, AND WEE

*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.

California Vector-borne Disease Surveillance



Mosquito Bite Prevention



Use repellent



Stay covered



Fix screens

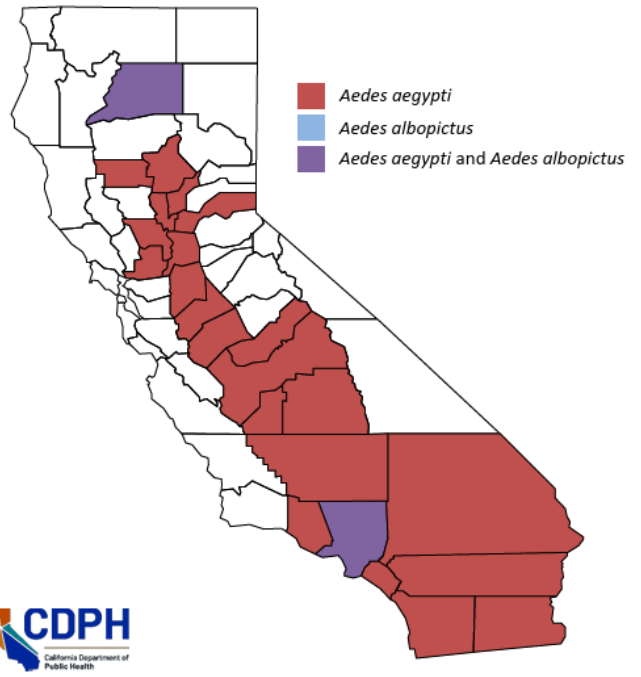


Drain water

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 24 California counties, and *Aedes albopictus* is found in two (reduced from five).

In 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 April 1, 2025, there have been 22 travel-related human dengue cases in California; there have been two travel-related cases of chikungunya virus and zero cases of Zika virus. There were five cases of travel-related dengue in Santa Barbara County last year. Worldwide, the number of dengue cases more than doubled—6.5 million in 2023 to 15 million in 2024 (11,000 deaths).



Tony Frates



Canyon County, Idaho

Tules and the Tule Mosquito *Culex erythrothorax*

As the common name implies, tule mosquito larvae are found in ponds and marshes with tules like bulrush (*Scirpus californicus*) and cattails (*Typha latifolia*). Larvae can evade fish and other predators by staying in the narrows between the stems. As aptly described by its scientific name (erythro- comes from the Greek word *erythros* meaning “red” or “reddish”) the adult mosquito's thorax (body region between head and abdomen where the legs and wings are attached) is a reddish-orange color. Adult females target bird and human hosts and are vectors of West Nile virus. They usually stay within two miles of their larval habitat. Local sources include the Andree Clark Bird Refuge next to the zoo, Lake Los Carneros in Goleta, the Sage Hill Campground in the Los Padres National Forest, and, of course, the “Tule Pond” located at the Santa Barbara Airport marshland south of the main runway. The Oceano wetland in San Luis Obispo County is also a wide expanse of tules. Although tules provide excellent shelter for mosquito larvae and makes sampling and treating for mosquito larvae difficult, they also provide food and habitat for red-wing blackbirds and other wildlife.