



MOSQUITO and VECTOR MANAGEMENT DISTRICT of Santa Barbara County

DISEASE SURVEILLANCE REPORT

February 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.

Eleven new cases of human WNV infection have been reported in California since the beginning of 2020. As of March 2, there have been 225 human cases of WNV infection since Jan. 1, 2019. Twenty-seven (27) counties have reported human WNV infection during this period: Alameda (1), Amador (1), Butte (5), Colusa (1), Contra Costa (1), Fresno (51), Imperial (3), Kern (28), Kings (3), Los Angeles (31), Madera (3), Merced (10), Orange (5), Placer (1), Riverside (12), Sacramento (4), San Bernardino (7), San Diego (3), San Joaquin (7), San Luis Obispo (2), Santa Clara (1), Solano (1), Stanislaus (16), Sutter (1), Tulare (24), Ventura (2), and Yolo (1).

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 information yet on SLEV activity in 2020. 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 February.

Sentinel Chicken Flocks

The District currently 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. Blood samples collected on February 18 and 19 were negative for WNV, SLEV and WEE.

Tick Survey

Staff assisted California Dept. of Public Health (CDPH) biologists with a tick survey on Jan. 14 at Romero Canyon, Jesusita Creek and Cold Springs trails. Western black-legged ticks, *Ixodes pacificus*, that were collected were sent to the CDPH lab in Richmond, CA and analyzed for *Borellia burgdorferi*, the causative agent of Lyme disease. Pacific Coast ticks, *D. occidentalis*, that were collected were sent for analysis for *Rickettsia* bacteria which cause Rickettsial diseases such as Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever and Pacific coast tick fever. All *I. pacificus* samples tested negative for *B. burgdorferi*. Test results are pending for the *D. occidentalis* samples

Location	Number of ticks collected	
	Western black-legged tick	Pacific Coast tick
Romero Canyon	37 males, 30 females	7 males, 3 females
Cold Springs	5 males, 4 females	None
Jesusita Creek	52 males, 60 females	3 males, 3 females



Swallow bug, *Oeciacus vicarius*

Swallow bugs are the hairy cousin of the bed bug, *Cimex lectularius*. Swallow bugs infest mud nests built by cliff swallows on the outside of buildings. Occasionally these bugs will make their way indoors and bite and feed on the blood of the occupants. However, humans are a poor host and swallow bugs need their avian hosts for their continued survival. Cliff swallows are a protected species and their nests can't be disturbed during nesting season (from about Feb. 15 – Sep. 1) without a permit from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The swallow bug pictured above was collected by a local pest control operator from a local residence.

Besides the length of the hairs on the body, their body sizes and hosts, other key differences between bed bugs and swallow bugs are based on precise measurements of the antennal segments and head width.

