
From: Craig Levy [mailto:LEVYC@azdhs.gov]
Sent: Thursday, June 05, 2008 12:57 PM
Subject: West Nile Virus Update

To: the West Nile Virus (WNV) Group
Re: Arbovirus Update

My apologies to the WNV group!
I have been a little delinquent in getting this update out to you.

Arbovirus Surveillance Update

We do have a little WNV activity to report.

Human Cases:

No change. We still have one human case reported in February in a 60+ year-old Maricopa Co. resident. The possibility of this case being due to blood transfusion transmission is still under investigation.

***IMPORTANT NOTE:** Several false positive results have been reported by one particular commercial lab.

The lab in question performs an EIA and reports results out as "POSITIVE" or "NEGATIVE" (IgM and/or IgG).

Results from this lab are NOT expressed as a numeric value of any kind.

Whenever you receive a lab report that is "IgM POSITIVE" for WNV (without any numeric value)– these lab results will need to be validated with further testing at the Arizona State Health Laboratory (ASHL). If results are positive for IgG only (and not IgM), no further follow-up is necessary. IgG-only positives do not qualify as recent WNV cases. If you have any questions about this, feel free to call ADHS-VBZD staff at (602) 364-4562 for clarification (or to discuss individual cases).

Mosquito Samples:

- Yuma County – 1 mosquito pool collected in late April in the Yuma area tested positive for WNV by RAMP assay @ Yuma County Pest Abatement District. This pool was confirmed by PCR at the AZ State Health Lab (ASHL).
- Maricopa County - 1 mosquito pool from the Chandler area tested positive on RAMP assay. RAMP assay produced a high result and further PCR confirmation was not necessary.

Sentinel Chickens: The sentinel chickens have proven to be the "early birds" this year when it comes to detecting arbovirus activity. Nine chickens administered by the UA Veterinary Diagnostic Lab have seroconverted to WNV. The IFA positive chickens have also been validated by the ASHL.

- Cochise County - 1 chicken WNV+ in Sierra Vista
- Graham County – 1 chicken WNV+ in Sanchez (east of Safford)
- Greenlee County – 1 chicken WNV+ in Duncan
- Pima County - 1 chicken WNV+ in Tucson
- Pinal County - 1 chicken WNV+ in Casa Grande

- 1 chicken WNV+ in Florence
 - 1 chicken WNV+ in town of Maricopa
- Santa Cruz County – 2 chickens WNV+

Dead Birds: no positives to report.

Horses: no positives to report.

Emerging Infectious Diseases (EID) Journal Article

Attached is an article in the May issue of Emerging Infectious Diseases (EID) regarding an efficacy study done of an aerial fogging program in Sacramento, CA, 2005. This study compares efficacy in mitigating a WNV outbreak in treated vs. untreated areas. This study is one-of-a-kind and shows that the aerial fogging effort made a significant difference in reducing human risk. Take a look at the article – judge for yourself. (Note: the figures and maps in this article may not come through in this attachment. You may need to access the article at the CDC EID website <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/EID/index/htm>.)

University of Arizona (UA) Survey

Researchers at the UA are conducting a survey to look at different perspectives on responding to mosquito-borne disease threats. The link is at <http://mosquito.grd.arizona.edu>. The password is **westnile**. It is an interesting survey which takes 30 minutes +/- . They are interested in getting as many people surveyed as possible. The survey is NOT limited to vector control personnel. It could be applicable to virtually anyone within this email group. If you have any questions about the survey, please contact Paul Robbins at robbins@email.arizona.edu or Ian Shaw at ishaw@email.arizona.edu.

Insect Repellent Update

A new insect repellent option has been added to the list of CDC recommended repellents. The new repellent **IR3535** is derived from natural materials and is classified as a biopesticide. IR3535 is registered through the EPA. Insect repellent trials have shown IR3535 to perform similarly to lower concentrations of DEET. The current list of CDC recommended repellents includes DEET, Picaridin, Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus (or PMD), and IR3535. The revised insect repellent webpage is attached.

Please share these updates with anyone in your agency that may be interested.

Bye

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