



County of Yolo

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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To: Yolo County Health Care Providers

From: Constance Caldwell MD
Interim Health Officer, Yolo County

Subject: Health Advisory – West Nile Virus

Background:

Recently the Health Department has received questions from providers about West Nile Virus. As you know, there have been an increased number of human cases of West Nile Virus this year in many parts of the nation, including California. Locally, Yolo County has seen a marked increase in the number of WNV cases reported this year.

The Sacramento-Yolo Mosquito and Vector Control District conducts ongoing WNV surveillance of birds and mosquito populations. Prevention of WNV infection continues to be very important. Prevention includes the “fight the bite” measures of using mosquito repellent or wearing long sleeves when outdoors in the evening, maintaining screens on windows and emptying all standing water.

Clinical Illness:

Manifestation of WNV ranges from asymptomatic to mild illness to severe encephalitis. Milder symptoms can include fever, nausea, vomiting, fatigue, rash, myalgia and headache. More severe disease can include change in mental status, severe weakness and paralysis, and death. Neurologic disease is much more common in adults over 50 years of age and becomes increasingly common with increasing age. Treatment is supportive.

Diagnosis:

Diagnosis of WNV requires clinical suspicion and specific laboratory testing. WNV should be strongly suspected in cases of unexplained encephalitis or meningitis, especially this time of year and in older adults. Confirmation of a diagnosis of WNV requires antibody to both WNV IgM and IgG or a four-fold rise of IgM titer. Serum is usually the specimen of choice. CSF may also be obtained in evaluation of neurologic disease.

Reporting:

WNV is a reportable disease and should be reported to Yolo County Health Department by phone or fax within one working day. Phone: 530-666-8645. Fax: 530-669-1549.

Further Information:

Sacramento Yolo Mosquito Vector Control District: www.yolomosquito.org

California West Nile Surveillance Information Center: www.westnile.ca.gov

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: www.cdc.gov/westnile