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Public Health Advisory - West Nile Virus September 16, 2015

SITUATIONAL UPDATE

As of September 16, 2015, the California Department of Public Health reported 123 human cases of West Nile Virus (WNV) infections have been reported in California. Eighteen cases and one WNV associated fatality have been reported for Riverside County compared to seven cases for the same time period in 2014. Of the cases reported in 2015, 17 were identified as neuro-invasive disease. In San Bernardino County nineteen cases and two fatalities have been reported compared to fourteen cases this time last year. Of the cases reported in 2015, 14 were identified as neuro-invasive disease.

ACTIONS REQUESTED OF ALL CLINICIANS

The diagnosis of WNV infection is based on a high index of clinical suspicion and specific laboratory tests. It is highly recommended that clinicians test for WNV whenever there is a history of unexplained encephalitis, meningitis or *unexplained febrile illness* lasting 7 days or more; especially if the fever is accompanied by a headache, rash, swollen lymph nodes, eye pain and nausea or vomiting.

What specimens are needed?

- Acute serum specimen (≥ 2 cc) and,
- If a lumbar puncture is performed, 1-2 cc of cerebrospinal fluid is required for testing.
- Contact the Riverside Public Health Laboratory at (951) 358-5070 or the San Bernardino County Public Health Laboratory at (909) 458-9430 for questions on specimen submission.

Why test? Testing differentiates WNV from other conditions (enterovirus, other arboviral diseases). Testing results offer anticipatory guidance--both WNV neuro-invasive disease and WNV fever patients can have lingering symptoms and knowing the underlying etiology is helpful for the patient and family members.

Prevention

It is important to educate patients about preventive measures.

- **DRAIN:** Mosquitoes lay their eggs on standing water. Young mosquitoes grow in the water. Get rid of standing water around the home. Empty water out of buckets, old tires, flower pots, and toys.
- **DEFEND:** Use an EPA-registered insect repellent with DEET, picaridin, IR3535 or oil of lemon eucalyptus in it. Put the repellent on your skin that is not covered by clothes. Follow the directions carefully.
- **DUSK and DAWN:** Mosquitoes that transmit West Nile virus bite in the early morning and early evening hours, and sometimes throughout the night. When outside in the early morning or evening hours, wear long pants and a long sleeved shirt.

West Nile Virus cases are reportable to Department of Public Health within one day of identification. Suspect and confirmed reports can be faxed to Riverside County (951) 358-5102 or to San Bernardino County (909) 387-6377, or be submitted through CalREDIE for participating medical providers. For questions regarding reporting or testing of suspect WNV cases, please contact your county agency listed below.

Disease Control Branch
4065 County Circle Drive, Riverside, CA 92503
Phone (951) 358-5107 - Fax (951) 358-5102
TDD (951) 358-5124 www.rivcoph.org

Communicable Disease Section
351 North Mt. View Ave, San Bernardino, CA 92415 Phone
(800) 722-4794 – Fax (909) 387-6377
After hours (909) 356-3805 www.sbcounty.gov/dph