



CONTRA COSTA HEALTH

2500 Bates Avenue, Suite B, Concord CA 94520 | Phone: 925-313-67405 | Fax: 925-313-6465
cchealth.org

Provider Advisory: Be On the Lookout for West Nile Virus

Contra Costa Public Health received the first report of the 2024 season of a [dead bird that tested positive for West Nile Virus \(WNV\)](#) the week ending April 26th. Although not unusual to have WNV circulating in mid to late spring, this detection is earlier than was seen for 2023. We are notifying providers, so they are informed and consider WNV as a diagnosis in the appropriate clinical setting.


WNV is transmitted through the bite of mosquitos (*Culex spp.*) and can cause a mild febrile illness but also potentially fatal encephalitis, meningitis or acute flaccid paralysis (AFP). Providers should suspect WNV when a patient presents with acute onset of fevers and myalgias coupled with symptoms of neuroinvasive disease such as headache, stiff neck, limb weakness, altered mental status and/or seizures. Providers should test for WNV by obtaining cerebral spinal fluid (CSF), urine and serum/blood and sending these for WNV Polymerase chain reaction (PCR) testing. Serologies, especially IgM, are helpful but should be sent along with PCR to confirm the diagnosis.

Contra Costa Public Health is here to support providers with diagnostics especially if specimens need to be sent to the state public health laboratory for confirmatory testing. When WNV is suspected, it should be reported to public health within 1 working day. Once a patient is confirmed to have WNV, public health notifies [Contra Costa Mosquito and Vector Control](#) to implement local measures to control mosquito populations.

Providers should also start informing patients about mosquito bite prevention locally but also if traveling to areas with other concerning vector borne diseases.

REMEMBER TO:

- THINK WNV AS A CAUSE FOR FEBRILE ILLNESS WITH NEUROLOGIC SYMPTOMS
 - WNV has been detected in dead birds indicating humans might be at risk as well as
- TEST FOR WNV BY SENDING CSF, URINE AND BLOOD/SERUM FOR WNV PCR
 - WNV IgM testing is helpful but detection of viral nucleic acid via PCR will confirm the diagnosis
- REPORT SUSPECT WNV PATIENTS TO PUBLIC HEALTH WITHIN 1 WORKING DAY;
WE CAN PROVIDE GUIDANCE AND ASSIST WITH TESTING
 - Call: 925-313-6740 OR Fax a CMR to: 925-313-6465 OR Email:
CoCoCD@cchealth.org
- EDUCATE PATIENTS ABOUT MOSQUITO BITE PREVENTION



Additional Resources:

[2024 West Nile Virus Activity - Contra Costa Mosquito And Vector Control District](#)

[West Nile virus \(ca.gov\)](#)

[Information for Healthcare Providers | West Nile Virus | CDC](#)