Two Birds have recently tested positive for West Nile Virus (WNV) in Santa Barbara County. With this recent activity and warm weather, human cases can be expected at any time this summer, although no human cases have been reported to date in California. Consider WNV infection in your patients with aseptic meningitis, encephalitis, or prolonged fever and submit specimens for WNV testing.

- WNV testing is recommended for the following individuals:
  - All hospitalized patients with encephalitis
  - All hospitalized patients with aseptic meningitis (consider enterovirus first in children)
  - All hospitalized patients with acute flaccid paralysis
  - Patients with prolonged febrile illness (≥ 7 days) and symptoms compatible with West Nile infection who see a healthcare provider.
- Diagnosis is best made by serology (IgM or paired acute and convalescent IgG) for WNV. WNV testing is available through commercial laboratories or on a case-by-case basis through SBCPHD Public Health Lab (805) 681-5255.

### West Nile Virus – Santa Barbara County
- Last year, Santa Barbara County reported one confirmed case of WNV. The individual had been exposed out-of-state.
- **No human cases have been reported for 2005 as of date.**
- WNV disease, aseptic meningitis, and encephalitis are all reportable diseases and should be reported to Communicable Disease via phone (805-681-5280) or fax (805-681-4069).
- To report dead birds, call 1-877-WNV-BIRD.

#### Educate your patients, friends and family about WNV prevention -- avoiding mosquito bites:
- Eliminate standing water on your property as this is where mosquitoes breed. Drain pots, unclog gutters, and keep swimming pools clean and chlorinated or drained and covered.
- Make sure that door and window screens are in good condition to keep the mosquitoes out.
- When outdoors, use an insect repellent containing DEET, oil of lemon eucalyptus or picaridin. Always follow the product directions on the label.

**Recommended Resources**
- Santa Barbara County Public Health Dept.: [www.sbcphd.org/alerts/west_nile_virus.html](http://www.sbcphd.org/alerts/west_nile_virus.html)
- California Department of Health Services: [www.westnile.ca.gov](http://www.westnile.ca.gov)
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: [www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile](http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile)

If you have any comments about the flyer, contact Communicable Disease at (805) 681-5280.
To receive this newsletter by email, please contact us at maria.sullivan@sbcphd.org.