Chickens from three counties have also been positive. 16 counties have tested positive for WNV. Five sentinel have tested positive for WNV. 139 mosquito pools from WNV in four counties. 359 dead birds in 33 counties (median age = 45, 1 death in a 70 y/o).

Santa Barbara County activity:
- Fourteen birds have recently tested positive for West Nile Virus (WNV) in Santa Barbara County along with one Mosquito Pool.
- No human cases, or equine cases.

California activity: As of July 14, 2005, thirty-five counties have reported WNV activity in California this year. Recently, a fourth state resident has been infected with WNV (Kern, Riverside, San Bernardino, Tulare counties). Six horses have tested positive for WNV in four counties. 359 dead birds in 33 counties have tested positive for WNV. 139 mosquito pools from 16 counties have tested positive for WNV. Five sentinel Chickens from three counties have also been positive.

Nationally: 26 states with activity. 25 human cases (median age = 45, 1 death in a 70 y/o).

WNV is now both a mandated immediately reportable disease by labs and providers (Communicable Disease Control via phone (805-681-5280) or fax (805-681-4069).

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 locally for free at the SBCPHD Public Health Lab (805) 681-5255.

Recommended Resources
Santa Barbara County Public Health Dept.: www.sbcphd.org
California Department of Health Services: www.westnile.ca.gov
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile

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.
Birds and mosquitoes have tested positive for West Nile Virus (WNV) in Orange County this year.