

# VECTOR CONTROL DISTRICT COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA



## Operations and Surveillance Report

### DECEMBER 2019

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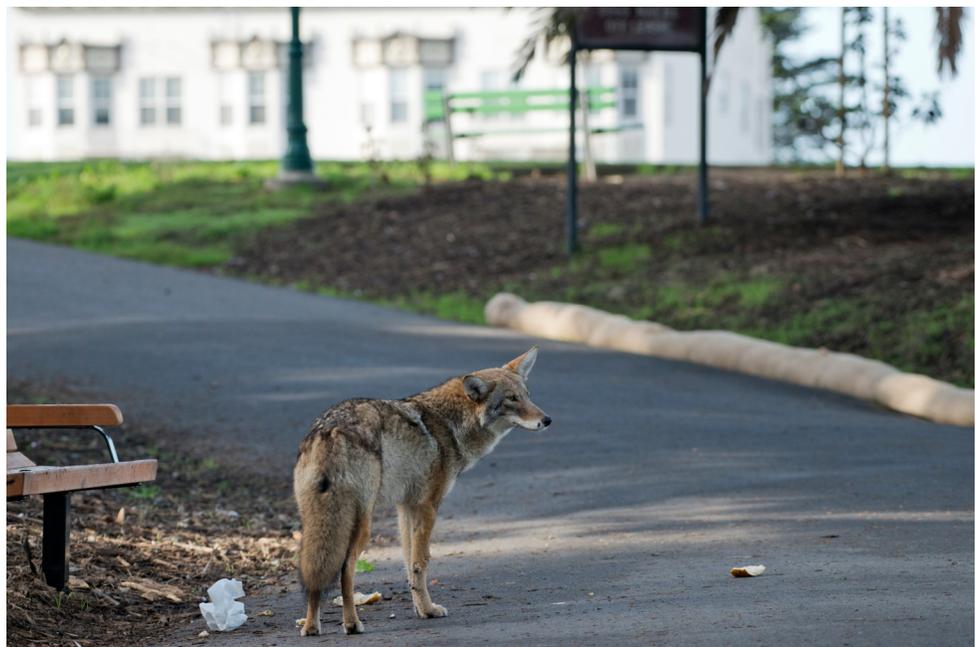
### COYOTE CAUTION

**Be informed. Be prepared. Be respectful.**

Coyotes naturally avoid humans, but are sometimes attracted to urban neighborhoods. The best way to avoid attracting them into your yard is to practice prevention:

- Do not leave water and pet food out.
- Keep trash can lids sealed tight.
- Install motion censored lights.

Visit [SCCVector.org](http://SCCVector.org) for more information.



# MESSAGE FROM THE MANAGER



**Nayer Zahiri**  
County of Santa Clara  
Vector Control District Manager

Coyotes are smart and adaptable canines that have learned to live around urban areas. They can be found throughout the United States, and in California, they are seen in San Francisco, Los Angeles, and Santa Clara County. Urban neighborhoods offer plenty of food, water, and shelter for coyotes, making our homes attractive to them.

Keep coyotes wild by removing any unnatural food and water sources around your home - this includes pet food and water bowls. If you have fruit trees, clean up any fallen fruit as coyotes also eat fruit. If you have bird feeders, make sure to clean up fallen bird seeds because the seeds attract rodents and coyotes eat rodents.

Be aware that coyotes are active both day and night, with peak activity in the spring. If you are followed by a coyote, make loud noises to scare them away, attempt to leave calmly, and do not turn your back on them. Keep pets on a 6-foot leash, and do not bend down with your back facing them when attempting to lift a pet or child.

Although seeing a coyote roam in your neighborhood may be alarming, coyotes play a vital ecological role for our ecosystem, making it important for all of us to do our part in keeping our wildlife wild.

Sincerely,

*Nayer Zahiri*



# SERVICES AVAILABLE

The County of Santa Clara Vector Control District is committed to protecting the public from vectors capable of transmitting diseases or creating a nuisance.

The services listed below are available for free to the public in Santa Clara County

- Advice, and/or control measures for mosquitoes
- Home inspections and advice for rodent infestations and/or wildlife activity.
- Insect identification and confirmation letter.
- Consultations for bed bug abatement.
- Yellowjacket and wasp control/nest removal in public areas.
- Dead bird pickup and testing for West Nile virus.
- Mosquitofish to control mosquito populations available for pick-up
- K-12 educational presentations and hands-on activities tailored for individual classroom settings or school assemblies.
- Educational presentations for homeowner associations, organizations, businesses, civic groups, and other interested parties.
- Educational booths for community, corporate, or school events.
- Informational material on all vectors and vector-borne diseases.
- Presentation topics can include mosquito prevention, rodent control, and wildlife management.



***A VECTOR is any animal or insect that can transmit diseases to animals or people.***

# OPERATIONS REPORT DATA

## DECEMBER UPDATES

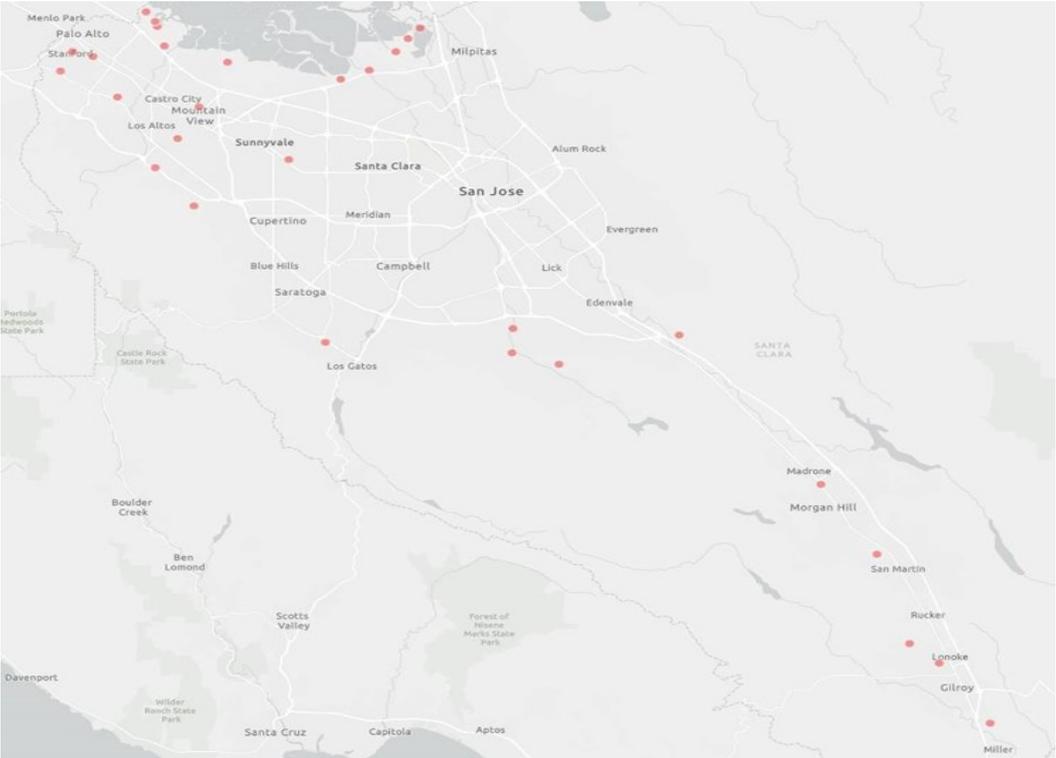
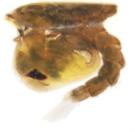


The District’s staff checks and treats mosquito larvae in flooded street stormwater catch basins, curbs, naturally breeding sources, and ponds. These sites hold standing water due to rainfall or urban runoff from domestic water usage.

Stagnant water in these areas, and in neglected swimming pools, can breed mosquitoes that can carry dangerous human diseases like West Nile virus.



The County of Santa Clara Vector Control District actively monitors such locations to prevent these local nuisances from emerging and potentially spreading diseases. Due to the rain and cold weather, mosquito activity decreases and mosquito treatments are reduced during winter.



Staff conducted 30 mosquito treatments in catch basins, curbs, and locations like creeks, ponds, and marshes.

# WEST NILE VIRUS SURVEILLANCE

## STATEWIDE

As of December, there were 214 West Nile virus human cases in California. That is an increase of 18 cases from November and a decrease compared to last year's total of 217 human cases. Counties with their first human case include Contra Costa and Alameda County, making it a total of 25 counties with human cases.

## SANTA CLARA COUNTY

Dead birds can be reported by calling the District office at (408) 918-4770 or by submitting a service request at [SCCVector.org](http://SCCVector.org)

### HORSES

**YTD: 15 Counties: 12**

**15** horses from **12** counties have tested positive for WNV in 2019.



### DEAD BIRDS

**YTD: 226 Counties: 21**

**226** dead birds from **21** counties have tested positive for WNV in 2019.



### MOSQUITO SAMPLES

**YTD: 3,288 Counties: 25**

**3,288** mosquito samples from **25** counties have tested positive for WNV in 2019.



*A mosquito sample may contain up to 50 individual mosquitoes.*

### SENTINEL CHICKENS

**YTD: 139 Counties: 17**

**139** sentinel chickens from **17** counties have tested positive for WNV in 2019.

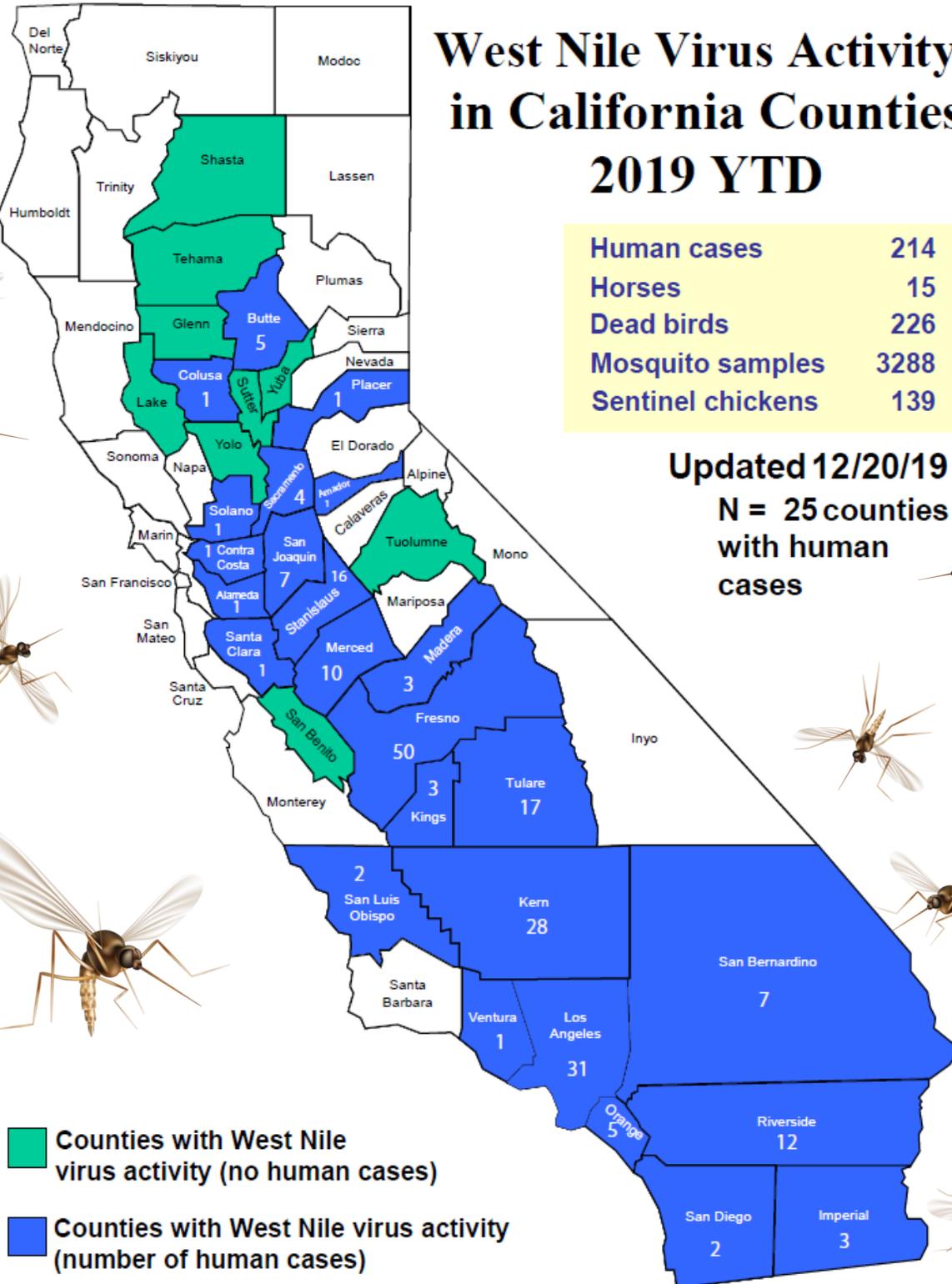


# WEST NILE VIRUS SURVEILLANCE IN CALIFORNIA COUNTIES

## West Nile Virus Activity in California Counties 2019 YTD

Human cases	214
Horses	15
Dead birds	226
Mosquito samples	3288
Sentinel chickens	139

Updated 12/20/19  
N = 25 counties  
with human  
cases



- Counties with West Nile virus activity (no human cases)
- Counties with West Nile virus activity (number of human cases)

# MURINE TYPHUS SURVEILLANCE

## NORWAY RAT MONITORING

Murine typhus is transmitted by fleas, usually found on rodents, and is caused by the bacterium *Rickettsia typhi*. Infection occurs through flea fecal contamination of the bite site. Most individuals who are infected do not realize they have been bitten by fleas. Symptoms of murine typhus include muscle pain, headache, fever, nausea, joint pain, and vomiting.

In December, the Vector Control District selected one of the homeless camps near the Discovery museum in San Jose for Murine typhus sampling. The three sites selected were located near San Fernando and highway 87, and Monterey Road and Woz Way. This project brought the yearly total of Norway rats collected to 96, with four flea species, two mite species, and one sucking louse species identified. According to tests performed at Alameda County Vector Control Service District, all fleas were found to be negative for murine typhus causing *Rickettsia*.



Rodent box traps were placed overnight in landscape vegetation at San Fernando and under the highway 87 overpass.

# PUBLIC SERVICE REQUESTS

## DECEMBER SERVICE REQUESTS

182 public service requests were received in December. The top service request received was coyotes, followed by rodents, other vertebrates, skunks, and raccoons.

## INSECT IDENTIFICATION

The District offers free insect identification services. The public can submit photos of specimens by emailing [vectorinfo@cep.sccgov.org](mailto:vectorinfo@cep.sccgov.org), or dropping off a sample at the District office during business hours. If possible, live samples are preferred. The District also provides free sticky monitoring traps to capture insects.



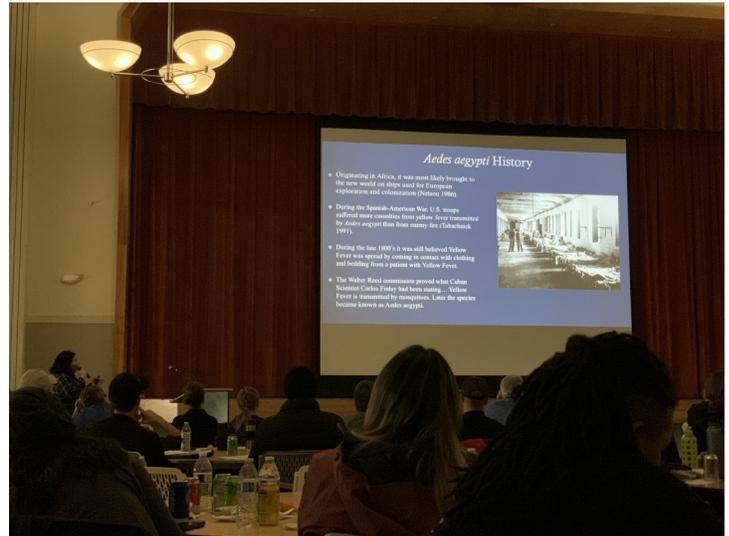
REQUEST	TOTAL
Coyotes	60
Rodents	57
Other vertebrate	13
Skunk	12
Raccoons	11
Bed bug	5
Mosquitoes	5
Mosquitofish	4
Bats	3
Squirrels	3
Insect ID	2
Opossum	2
Wasps/Yellowjackets	1
Other invertebrate	1
Neglected pools	1
Bees	1
Cockroaches	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>182</b>

# STAFF DEVELOPMENT

## CONTINUING EDUCATION

In December, Vector Control District staff attended a workshop hosted by the Mosquito and Vector Control Association of California Coastal California Region. Topics discussed included hantavirus in California and the investigation of a human case from the coastal region, yellow fever mosquito (*Aedes aegypti*) activity, schools and integrated pest management programs, an update on arbovirus, gene drive and vector control, and regulations to healthy housing.

Speakers included Tina Feiszli from the California Department of Public Health, Dave McKnabb from DK Environmental, Dr. Lark Coffey from UC Davis, Assistant Professor John Marshall from the Berkeley School of Public Health, and Doug Henderson from the Alameda County Healthy Homes Department. Workshops such as this provide the latest tools, research, and information essential to the vector control field. This was the last workshop held in 2019 for Vector Control Districts.



Yellow fever mosquito (*Aedes aegypti*) history and activity presentation.



Doug Henderson presenting on pest management for a healthy home.

# OUTREACH PROGRAM

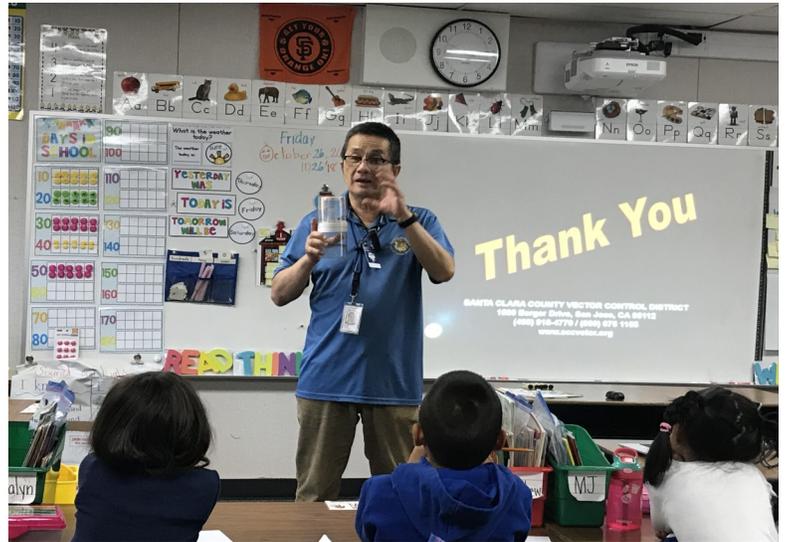
## PUBLIC EDUCATION

School presentations are offered to K-12 students, with materials tailored for each grade. Presentations are delivered in individual classroom settings or can also be combined for a school assembly.

December school outreach efforts included presentations to Luther Burbank Elementary, Aptitud Community Academy at Goss, Oakridge Elementary, Schallengberger Elementary, and Baldwin Elementary.

Presentations and educational booths are also offered to community groups like homeowner associations, senior centers, and libraries. Available topics include mosquitoes and mosquito-borne diseases, rodent management, living with wildlife, and cockroach management.

Interested parties can submit a presentation request online at [SCCVector.org](http://SCCVector.org), submit an email to [VectorOutreach@cep.sccgov.org](mailto:VectorOutreach@cep.sccgov.org), or call 408-918-4794.



School presentation with live demonstrations and hands-on activities



Community presentation on wildlife



Coyote (*Canis latrans*)

## MISSION

To detect and minimize vector-borne diseases, to abate mosquitoes, and to assist the public in resolving problems that can cause disease, discomfort, or injury to humans in Santa Clara County.

[www.sccvector.org](http://www.sccvector.org)



@sccvcd