

VECTOR CONTROL DISTRICT COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA



Operations and Surveillance Report

NOVEMBER 2019

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DUMP AND DRAIN STANDING WATER

Don't give mosquitoes a chance!

Mosquitoes need water to lay their eggs. Prevent mosquito breeding in your yard by taking the following steps:

- Drain standing water around your home at least once a week. This includes water collected in buckets, old tires, toys, birdbaths, and tarps.
- Do not over water your plants; moist soil can also be used as a breeding ground for mosquitoes.
- Toss unneeded items or place them inside a storage room.

Visit SCCVector.org for more information.



MESSAGE FROM THE MANAGER



Nayer Zahiri
County of Santa Clara
Vector Control District Manager

If you plan to travel during the holidays, remember to protect yourself from mosquitoes. Areas like Mexico, Argentina, Fiji, and Tonga have mosquitoes that can carry Zika virus. Zika virus can spread through the bite of an infected mosquito, and can also be transmitted by both men and women during sex.

Symptoms of Zika infection can include, rash, joint pain, red eyes (conjunctivitis), and fever. Most individuals infected with Zika do not develop any symptoms, but should take precautions to avoid sexual transmission even if they have not experienced any symptoms.

All individuals, especially pregnant women and women of childbearing age, should take steps to protect themselves from mosquito bites while traveling. Wear long sleeves and pants, light colored clothing, and apply mosquito repellent approved by the Environmental Protection Agency. Always follow the instructions on the label. If you are traveling with children, dress them in clothing that covers their arms and legs. Cover strollers and baby carriers with mosquito netting when outside.

It is also important to control mosquitoes indoors. Choose hotel or lodging with air conditioning, or with screens on windows and doors. Sleep under a mosquito net if you will be sleeping outside.

For more travel tips, visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention at [CDC.gov](https://www.cdc.gov).

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

- Home inspections and advice for rodent infestations and/or wildlife activity.
- Insect identification and confirmation letter.
- Consultations for bed bug abatement.
- Advice, and/or control measures for mosquitoes, rodents, wildlife, and miscellaneous invertebrates (ticks, cockroaches, bees, fleas, flies, and others).
- 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.



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

OPERATIONS REPORT DATA

NOVEMBER 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.



Map 1. Staff inspected 5,525 catch basins and treated 209 that were found to contain mosquito larvae.

OPERATIONS REPORT DATA



Map 2. 10 of 18 inspected curbs were treated to control mosquito breeding.



Map 3. Staff inspected 108 reported pools and treated 1 that was breeding mosquitoes.

OPERATIONS REPORT DATA



Map 4. Inspected 198 different locations, including man-made habitats such as ponds, creeks, and marshes, treating 42 that were breeding mosquitoes.



Map 5. Delivered 33 mosquitofish during 4 service requests.

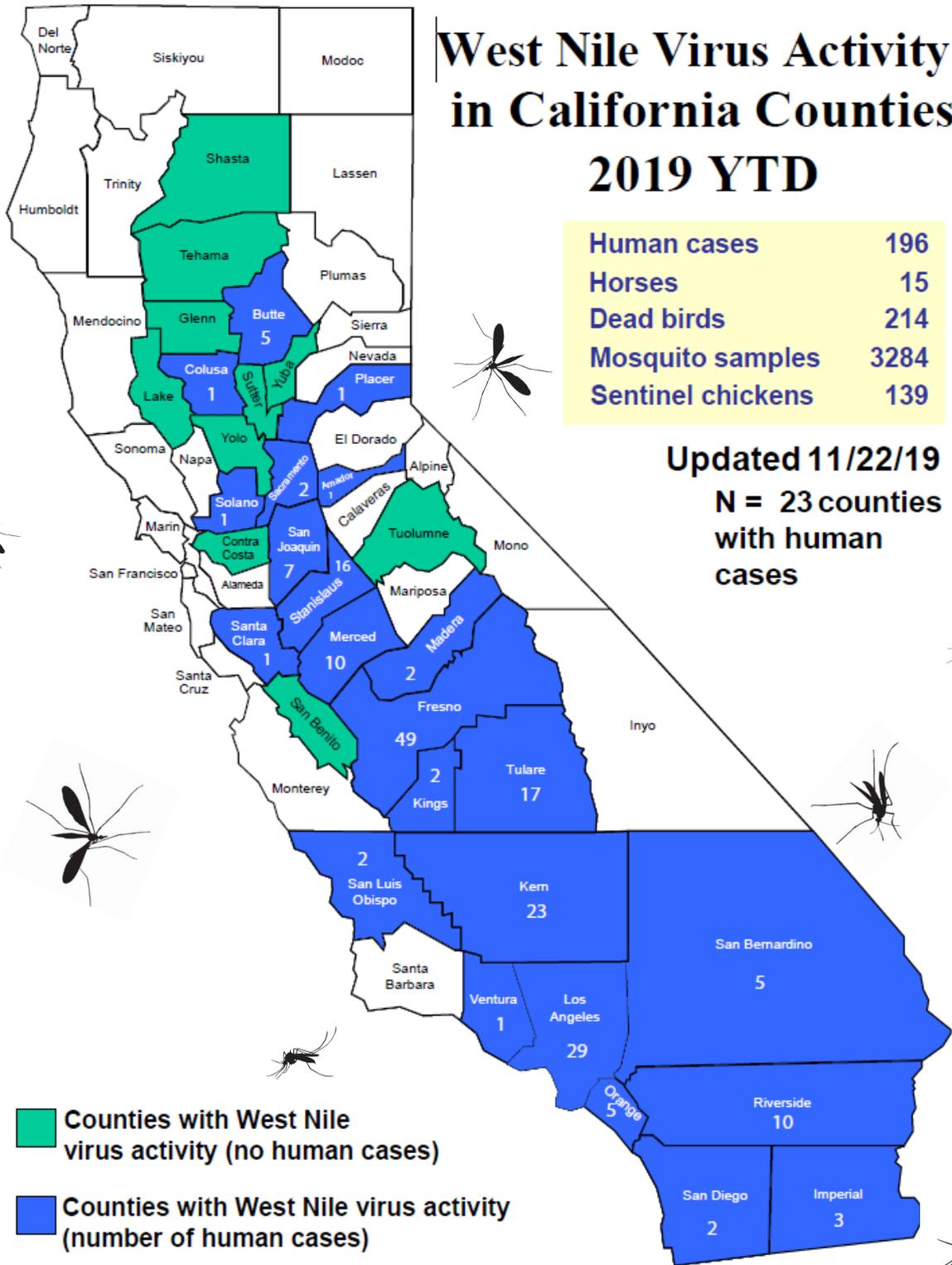
WEST NILE VIRUS SURVEILLANCE

STATE WIDE

As of November, there are 196 human cases in California. That is an increase of 27 cases from October. Counties with their first human case include Placer, Santa Clara, and Kings County. Counties with West Nile virus activity, but no human cases include Tuolumne, Contra Costa, Lake, Yolo, Glenn, Sutter, Yuba, San Benito, Tehama, and Shasta County. With the current cold weather throughout California, mosquito activity is likely to drop further.

2018 & 2019 YTD West Nile Virus Comparisons		
	2018	2019
Total # Dead Bird Reports	7,980	5,460
# Positive Counties	41	33
# Human Cases	189	196
# Positive Dead Birds / # Tested	498 / 2,139	214 / 1,739
# Positive Mosquito Pools / # Tested	1,963 / 42,021	3,284 / 42,462

WEST NILE VIRUS SURVEILLANCE IN CALIFORNIA COUNTIES



STAFF DEVELOPMENT

CONTINUED EDUCATION

In November, Vector Control District staff attended a workshop hosted by the Mosquito and Vector Control Association of California Coastal California Region. Topics discussed included urban rodents, chickens for mosquito-borne disease surveillance, how to handle media interviews, invasive Argentine ants in Northern California, the ecology and biology of coyotes, and flea pest management.

These workshops are held twice a year and provide the latest research, tools, and information in the vector control field. Speakers included individuals from other vector control districts such as Contra Costa Mosquito and Vector Control District, professors from Stanford University, and park rangers from Marin County.



Terry Davis, Contra Costa Mosquito and Vector Control District Vertebrate Program Supervisor



Rob Ruiz, Marin County Parks Chief Park Ranger



Professor Debora M. Gordon, Department of Biology Stanford University

PUBLIC SERVICE REQUESTS

NOVEMBER SERVICE REQUESTS

236 public service requests were received in November. The top three requests included rodents, wildlife such as coyotes and raccoons, and mosquito requests. Rodent activity continues to be the number one public request.

INSECT IDENTIFICATION

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



REQUEST	TOTAL
Rodents	77
Coyotes	53
Raccoons	22
Mosquitoes	19
Other vertebrate	12
Other	9
Wasps/Yellowjackets	7
Mosquitofish	7
Cockroaches	6
Opossum	6
Skunks	6
Bed bugs	4
Bats	2
Bees	2
Squirrels	2
Midges	1
Other invertebrates	1
TOTAL	236

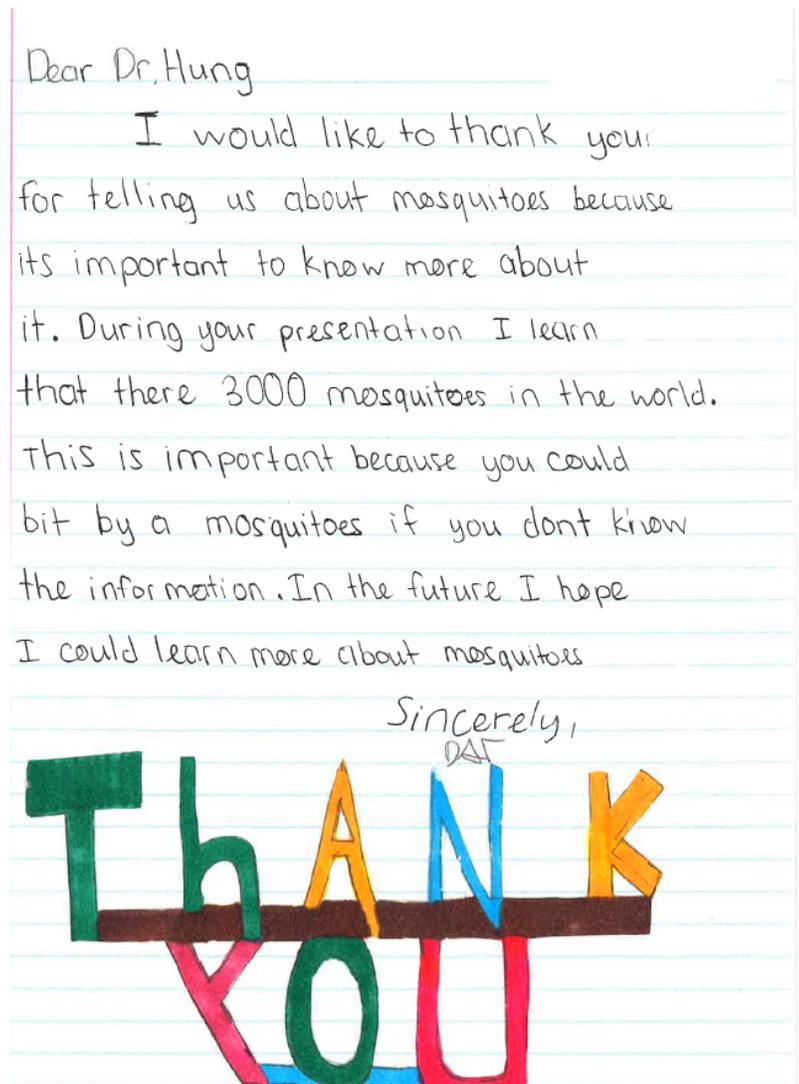
OUTREACH PROGRAM

PUBLIC EDUCATION

November outreach efforts included a presentation to a Parent-Teacher Association, and presentations to Whaley Elementary, Country Lane Elementary, and Luther Burbank Elementary. School presentations are offered to K-12 students, with materials tailored to each grade. Presentations are offered in individual classroom settings or can be combined for a school assembly.

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, submit an email to VectorOutreach@cep.sccgov.org, or call 408-918-4794.



Student Thank You Letter



Mosquito eggs

*photo for educational purposes only

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



@sccvcd