



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
**Public Health**

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April 5, 2007

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: Jonathan E. Fielding, M.D., M.P.H. *J. Fielding*  
Director and Health Officer

SUBJECT: WEST NILE VIRUS PLAN FOR 2007

This is to inform you of Public Health's plans for West Nile Virus (WNV) for 2007.

In 2006 California reported just 292 cases of WNV infection, 16 of which were in Los Angeles County. There were no WNV associated deaths in Los Angeles County, but WNV remains an important endemic, vector-borne infection for the foreseeable future. The final 2006 epidemiological report is attached.

Once again, the following Public Health Programs have key responsibilities for WNV: Acute Communicable Disease Control Program (ACDC), the Public Health Laboratory (PHL), Veterinary Public Health Program (VPH), and the Environmental Health Division (EH):

- ACDC will conduct surveillance as in past years, including case investigation, weekly surveillance reports for posting on our web site, and regular communication with the State and local vector control districts. The surveillance plan has been updated.
- ACDC's speakers' bureau WNV presentation has been distributed to our volunteer speakers in various public health units.
- ACDC will distribute a letter by May 1, 2007 to Los Angeles County physicians reminding them that WNV is a reportable disease and that testing is available through the PHL.

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- ACDC continues to participate in the WNV Interagency Task Force, consisting of representatives of EH and VPH, the mosquito abatement districts, the State's vector-borne disease section, and officials from the Pasadena and Long Beach Health Departments.
- VPH will continue its surveillance in bird, squirrel, and horse populations (these species experience high morbidity and mortality from WNV).
- EH will continue to work closely with the vector and mosquito abatement districts, which have the primary responsibility for enforcing mosquito abatement. Abatement services in Agua Dulce and Acton are being provided by the Antelope Valley Mosquito Abatement District and are in effect through the end of Fiscal Year (FY) 2006-07. Baldwin Park and South Pasadena are similarly being served by the San Gabriel Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District through the end of FY 2006-07. Abatement services beyond June 30, 2007 are in negotiation.
- EH will continue its educational (pamphlets and speakers' bureau) activities in WNV mitigation.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please let me know.

JEF:eb

PH:702:004

Attachment

c: Chief Administrative Officer  
County Counsel  
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors