

Locally-acquired Case of West Nile Virus in San Diego County

San Diego County Health and Human Services Agency reports the first confirmed locally-acquired case of West Nile Virus (WNV) infection for this year. Another case is pending confirmation at the State Viral and Rickettsial Disease Laboratory.

An 86-year-old male resident of East County was diagnosed with meningoencephalitis in late August and subsequently tested positive for WNV. He reported being bitten by mosquitoes in the La Mesa area. A second case that is currently pending confirmation has been reported in a 68-year-old male, also a resident of East County and diagnosed with encephalitis in late August. Exposure history to mosquitoes has not been determined for this case. Both patients remain hospitalized, in stable condition.

San Diego County physicians are encouraged to consider WNV for patients presenting with meningitis, encephalitis, atypical Guillain-Barré Syndrome, acute flaccid paralysis, transverse myelitis, or febrile illness compatible with West Nile fever lasting 7 or more days. Clinical guidelines, testing algorithms and specimen submission forms for WNV testing at San Diego County Public Health Laboratory are available on the EMAN website at <http://www.emansandiego.com>. All suspect cases should be reported to Community Epidemiology Branch at 619-515-6620 within one working day of identification.

Thank you for your continued participation.

Emergency Medical Alert Network (EMAN)

County of San Diego, Health & Human Services Agency
Community Epidemiology Branch