



A DIVISION OF
HEALTH CARE
SERVICES AGENCY

Date: August 21, 2020

To: San Joaquin County Medical Community

From: Maggie Park, MD, Public Health Officer

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Health Advisory for St. Louis Encephalitis Virus (SLEV)

Situation:

San Joaquin County Mosquito and Vector Control District's mosquito-borne disease surveillance program discovered St. Louis Encephalitis (SLEV) in a group of collected mosquitoes in zip code 95240. This is the first environmental detection of SLEV in San Joaquin County since 1973.

SLEV is closely related to West Nile Virus (WNV), in the flavivirus family. WNV is currently very active in the mosquito population of San Joaquin County.

Thus far, in 2020 year-to-date, there have been no human cases of SLEV or WNV in San Joaquin County. There have been 18 human cases of WNV in California, from five (5) counties, including Stanislaus. There has been one (1) WNV-related fatality, in Los Angeles County.

Actions Requested of Clinicians:

Consider SLEV, in addition to WNV, in patients presenting with aseptic meningitis and encephalitis. Patients may present with fever, headache, dizziness, nausea, malaise, or other unexplained neurological symptoms. Symptoms can progress to stiff neck, confusion, seizures, paralysis, and coma.

Test serum or cerebrospinal fluid in suspected patients for the presence of IgM antibodies. Confirmatory testing for both SLEV and WNV is done by the California Department of Public Health's Viral and Rickettsial Disease Laboratory (VRDL). Contact San Joaquin County Public Health Services Disease Control and Prevention Program at (209) 468-3822 to facilitate testing.

Treat patients supportively. There is no specific treatment or vaccine for SLEV.

Prevent mosquito-transmitted diseases by following these recommendations from San Joaquin County Mosquito and Vector Control District:

- Eliminate all sources of standing water on your property.
- According to label instructions, when outdoors, apply insect repellent containing EPA registered active ingredients, including DEET, Picaridin, oil of lemon eucalyptus, or IR3535.
- Avoid spending time outside when mosquitoes are most active, at dawn and dusk, and especially for the first two hours after sunset.
- When outdoors in cooler weather, wear long pants, loose-fitting long-sleeved shirts, and other protective clothing.
- Exclude mosquitoes from your home with tight-fitting screens on doors and windows.
- Contact your veterinarian for information on vaccinating equine against WNV.
- Report daytime biting mosquitoes or significant mosquito infestations to San Joaquin County Mosquito & Vector Control District at www.sjmosquito.org, (209) 982-4675 or 1-800-300-4675.

Report suspected cases to San Joaquin County Public Health Services by calling the Disease Control and Prevention Program at (209) 468-3822.

For more information:

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, <https://www.cdc.gov/sle/>
- California West Nile Virus, <http://westnile.ca.gov/>
- California Department of Public Health, <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/VRDL.aspx>
- San Joaquin County Mosquito and Vector Control District, <http://www.sjmosquito.org/>