



MOSQUITO and VECTOR MANAGEMENT DISTRICT of SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

DISEASE SURVEILLANCE REPORT

March 2021

Live Mosquito-Borne Virus Surveillance

Trapping in March was hindered by wind, threat of rain, and staff schedules, but mosquito activity was low anyway. Low trap numbers indicate that the District's pre-treatment of floodwater habitats has been effective. No additional *Aedes aegypti* were detected. The District is trying out a new type of trap, the Biogents Pro All-in-one.

Location	Date	Number of Mosquitoes	Type of Trap	# of Traps	Mosquitoes per Trap Night	Pools Submitted	WSW Virus Test Result
UCSB/SBA Bluffs	3/6-3/7	27	EVS	6	4.5	0	
Orella St.	3/3-3/9	0	BGS1	1	0	0	
Chino St.	3/6-3/14	1	BGS2	1	0.1	0	
Crescent Dr.	3/6-3/14	0	BGS2	1	0	0	
Lake Los Carneros	3/13-3/14	7	EVS/BGP	6	1.2	0	
MVMD SumInd.	3/26-3/28	0	BGS1	1	0	0	
MVMD SumInd.	3/26-3/28	0	BGS2	1	0	0	
More Mesa/Shoreline	3/27-3/28	7	EVS	6	1.2	0	
More Mesa/Shoreline	3/27-3/28	3	BGP	2	1.5	0	
Villa St.	3/27-3/28	1	BGP	1	1	0	
Crescent Dr.	3/27-3/29	4	BGP	1	2	0	

BGS2=Biogents Sentinel 2

EVS=encephalitis surveillance trap (CO²)

WSW=WNV, SLEV, AND WEE

BGP=Biogents Pro

West Nile Virus Activity

No West Nile virus activity has been reported by the California Department of Public Health in 2021. Two dead birds were swabbed for testing in March; we are awaiting results. Seven other dead birds in Santa Barbara County were reported to the WNV hotline but were not accepted for testing.

Sentinel Chicken Flocks

The District currently maintains four sentinel chicken flocks in Santa Barbara County located at the Goleta Sanitary District, Mission Hills Community Services District, the Solvang City Wastewater Treatment Plant, and the U.S. Forest Service Fire Station in Carpinteria. Blood samples were collected from these chickens during the first (all tested negative) and last (results pending) weeks of March. From November through March, chickens are tested only once every four weeks. New chickens for the 2022 season will be picked-up from Modesto on April 15.

St. Louis Encephalitis Virus Activity

No SLEV activity has been detected in California in 2021 to date.

Western Equine Encephalitis

There was no reportable WEE activity in California in March.

Zika Virus and Invasive *Aedes* Mosquito Update

No *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes have been collected in Santa Barbara County in 2021.

There were no Zika virus infections reported in California in February 2021.

Tick Surveillance

Specimens will be preserved in resin blocks for public outreach use. Data will be shared with UCSB graduate student Samantha Sambado, who may be able to test ticks for pathogens this year.

Date	Location	Western Black-Legged Tick	Pacific Coast Tick
3/1/2021	Tucker's Grove trail	1 male	0
3/11/2021	Lake Los Carneros	0	0
3/18/2021	Tucker's Grove	0	0
3/27/2021	Stevens Park	0	0
3/27/2021	Stevens Park trail	0	3 male, 5 female



Photo by Jessica Kurek, DVM

Myxomatosis

Myxomatosis is a disease of rabbits caused by the myxoma virus. There is no vaccine or treatment, and it is fatal to rabbits of European origin; this includes almost all pet rabbits. Wild North American rabbits have evolved with myxoma virus, so illness is mild. They maintain a reservoir of the virus that can spill over to highly susceptible domesticated rabbits. It is vectored from rabbit to rabbit mechanically by insects such as mosquitoes, other biting flies, and fleas. Symptoms include fever, lethargy, red eyes, drooping eyelids, and swelling/edema. A good way to protect pet rabbits is to keep them indoors. If rabbits are housed outdoors, enclosures should be screened to prevent insect access. Fortunately, the Easter Bunny is not susceptible to the illness.