

Florida 2006 Arbovirus Activity by County

Through the Week of January 8-14, 2006

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Disclaimer: Please note that data are subject to change with confirmatory information.

1. Human Surveillance

Eastern Equine Encephalomyelitis (ICD Code 6220)

None.

West Nile Virus (ICD Codes 6630 and 6631)

None.

2. Animal Surveillance

Eastern Equine Encephalomyelitis Virus

A positive sample from **1 live wild bird in one county**, was received. To date, 1 of Florida's 67 counties have reported EEE virus activity in an animal. Date of disease onset (**horses**), date of death (**birds**), and date of first known antibody positive bleed (**sentinels, live wild birds****) is shown in parentheses.

Washington: **1 live wild bird (1 Sparrow; 1/06)**

Highlands J Virus

None.

St. Louis Encephalitis Virus

None.

West Nile Virus

None.

3. Mosquito Surveillance

None.

For more surveillance information, please see the DOH web site at: <http://www.MyFloridaEH.com/hsee/arbo/index.html> or call the Disease Outbreak Information Hotline which offers updates on medical alert status and surveillance at **888-880-5782**.

Current Bird Mortality Reporting Guidelines:

1. Report dead birds to www.wildflorida.org/bird/. From that site, you can link to online bird identification sites. Under most circumstances, testing is not warranted. There is value in the reported information submitted even if the bird is not tested. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWCC) tracks all clusters of wild bird mortality in the state.
2. The DOH Lab in Tampa still accepts dead bird specimens for testing, as long as they are shipped in good condition. When there is a need to verify the cause of an increased corvid (i.e. crows and jays) or overall bird mortality, a representative sample may be submitted to the Tampa laboratory for arboviral testing. Instructions for submission of dead birds are found at: <http://www.MyFloridaEH.com/hsee/arbo/index.html>. Select "How Do I Report?", then choose "Protocol for Collecting and Shipping Bird Carcasses" under "Dead Birds" subtopic.
3. Clusters of mortality of single non-corvid species or families of birds such as doves, ducks or pelicans are usually not caused by WN virus and should not be submitted for WN virus testing. However, we still want them reported to the FWCC website.
4. If personnel are not able to offer pick-up service, yet they desire to collect specimens, determine a drop-off station and provide the caller with safe handling instructions. A county may modify their testing approach depending on the availability of other surveillance systems in the county.

Acknowledgements/data sources: county health departments, Department of Health Laboratories, Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, mosquito control agencies, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, medical providers and veterinarians.

*Equine cases are determined by the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

**Wild captured bird information is provided by the John A. Mulrennan Public Health Entomology Research and Education Center. For more information, go to <http://www.pherec.org/DECS>, and click on "Arbovirus Ecology" to download the database, then the "Bird Serology" tab.