



# County of Santa Cruz

## HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY

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### DISEASE CONTROL UNIT

### PUBLIC HEALTH MEMO

**TO:** Health Care Providers

**FROM:** Public Health Disease Control Unit

**SUBJECT:** West Nile Virus

- New Reportable Disease Requirement
- Testing Guidelines

**DATE:** May 25, 2004

**West Nile Virus is now a reportable illness in California.** Please report all possible cases immediately to 454-4114/fax 454-5049.

The Santa Cruz County Public Health Laboratory is facilitating testing through other laboratories to assist in your evaluation of possible cases for West Nile Virus.

- All specimens must fit the criteria detailed in the **Diagnostic Testing Guidelines** (attached) to qualify for free testing
- Specimens that do not fit the criteria can be tested at a cost of \$80.00.
- All specimens must be accompanied by a WNV Case History Form
- We encourage testing at private labs for patients with private insurance

Accompanying this memo are the following:

- **Diagnostic Testing Guidelines**
- **West Nile Case History Form**

The Disease Control Unit **must be notified** of the possible case, **prior to submission of specimens** to any laboratory. Please call us at 454-4114/ or fax a CMR to 454-5049 if you suspect West Nile Virus in a patient.

WNV may arrive in our county in the summer or fall. We have begun an educational campaign for the public and providers. We are hosting a lecture on May 26<sup>th</sup> at 1080 Emeline specifically for providers from 9am to 10:30am in the Small Auditorium. WNV will be the topic for Grand Rounds at Dominican Hospital on June 18<sup>th</sup>. We will begin an informational ad campaign in the Santa Cruz Sentinel in June. This will run through October and will be coordinated with the efforts of South County's Mosquito Abatement District. **Since there is no mosquito abatement program in North County**, we must stress prevention measures that limit human exposure to mosquitoes.

We will also be mailing you new pages for your ALPHA binders (Essential Reporting Guidelines) for the Disease Info section with the latest information on WNV. If you do not have a binder, please call 831-454-4275, and one will be mailed to you.

Once WNV arrives in adjacent counties, you will receive a Public Health Alert with particular information about the incident. At that time, we expect testing for WNV to begin in earnest.

We are here to support your efforts in keeping our community healthy. Please call us if you have any questions at 831-454-4114.