



Philadelphia Department of Public Health  
**Division of Disease Control**

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 Health Commissioner

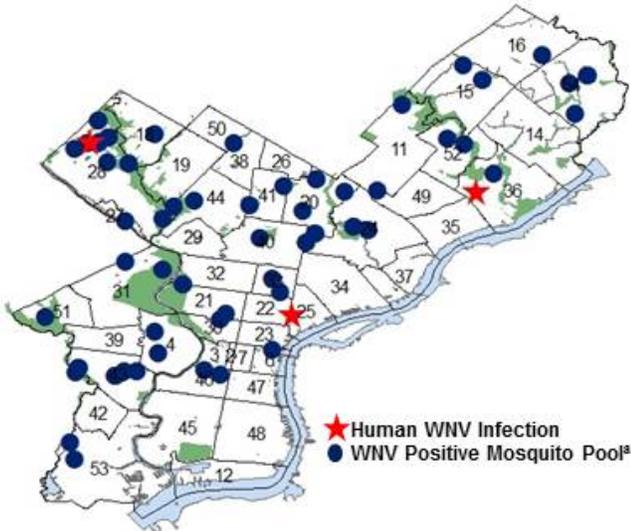
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**2016 Philadelphia West Nile Virus Activity Report**  
**September 29, 2016**

So far this season, three neuroinvasive West Nile Virus (WNV) cases have occurred in Philadelphia. All three were adults >50 years of age and required hospitalization. During Morbidity Week 38, the Philadelphia Department of Public Health (PDPH) continued to identify mosquito pools infected with WNV in the City. Although the cumulative WNV mosquito pool positivity rate in 2016 is lower than 2015 (8% vs. 19%), WNV activity in mosquitoes and increased risk for human infection will continue through September.

From May through October, PDPH in collaboration with the PA Department of Environmental Protection conducts mosquito management activities throughout Philadelphia, which entails surveillance and identification of mosquito pools, testing pools for WNV, and control activities (eliminating breeding sites, larviciding catch basins, ground spraying, etc.). Targeted treatments to control adult mosquito populations will be applied to areas with WNV positive pools as needed. Since June 2016, 31 locations across Philadelphia with WNV positive mosquito pools or high numbers of nuisance mosquitoes were treated to control adult mosquito populations.

**West Nile Virus Mosquito and Human Case Surveillance, Philadelphia PA,  
 Morbidity Week 38 and Cumulative 2016 Season Update**



<sup>a</sup>Fifty-six sites tested positive 1–8 times.

	<b>Week 38</b> <b>(9/18–9/24)</b>	<b>2016 Season</b> <b>(5/1–9/24)</b>
Mosquito Pools Tested	48	996 <sup>a</sup>
WNV Positive Pools	2	82
Humans Tested <sup>b</sup>	2	19
Human WNV Cases	2	3
Neuroinvasive WNV	2	3
WNV Fever	0	0

<sup>a</sup>996 mosquito pools at 251 different mosquito trapping sites

<sup>b</sup>Testing among case reports received by PDPH only

State and National WNV Activity Reports

- [Pennsylvania Department of Health](#)
- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)

**Advise your patients to:**

- Use repellent with DEET (≥20% to also prevent tick bites), Picaridin, or oil of lemon eucalyptus when outdoors.
- Regularly check and remove standing water outside their home (e.g., unused pools, tires).
- Keep well-fitted screens on windows and doors.
- Report mosquito problems and dead bird sightings to the PDPH Vector Control Program’s Mosquito Complaint hotline at 215-685-9000.

**WNV Testing and Reporting Requirements for Human Surveillance in Philadelphia:**

- Collect CSF (from symptom onset–day 8) and serum (day 8–14) from patients with unexplained encephalitis or meningitis for WNV IgM testing.
- Report suspected and confirmed WNV infections (neuroinvasive or non-neuroinvasive illness) and encephalitis cases to PDPH by telephone at 215-685-6742 (or 215-686-4514 after hours). Reports also may be faxed to 215-238-6947.