

2023 Philadelphia West Nile Virus Activity Report

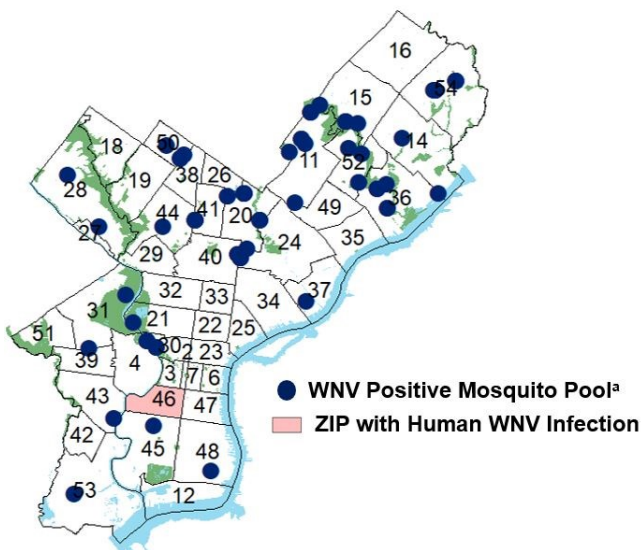
August 18, 2023

On July 11th, the first mosquito pool infected with West Nile Virus (WNV) in Philadelphia for the 2023 season was collected in Northeast Philadelphia. On August 1st, a presumptive viremic blood donor was identified, but did not develop symptoms. Positive mosquito pools continue to be identified across the City. The WNV pool positivity in 2023 is higher than the year-to-date historic median rate (17% vs 6%) but within range of rates observed in 2010, 2018 and 2022 (15-41%), peak WNV activity seasons in Philadelphia. Increased risk for human infection will continue in Philadelphia until the first hard frost occurs.

From May through October, the Philadelphia Department of Public Health (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.). Since May 2023, 97 locations in Philadelphia have been treated to control larval mosquito populations.

West Nile Virus Mosquito and Human Case Surveillance, Philadelphia PA, Morbidity Week 31 and Cumulative 2023 Season Update

2023 Distribution of Positive Mosquito Pools and Human Cases



^a17 locations had 2-6 mosquito pools test positive

WNV Testing and Reporting Requirements for Human Surveillance in Philadelphia:

- Collect serum (3-8 days after onset) and CSF for patients with unexplained encephalitis or meningitis. Absence of detectable antibodies in serum within 8 days does not exclude possible WNV and samples can be recollected after 8 days if concern continues.
- Report suspected and confirmed WNV infections (neuroinvasive or non-neuroinvasive illness) and encephalitis cases to PDPH by telephone at 215-685-6741 (or 215-686-4514 after hours). Reports also may be faxed to 215-238-6947.

	Week 31 (7/30-8/5)	2023 Season (5/1-8/5)
Mosquito Pools Tested ^a	41	469
WNV Positive Pools	15	78
Humans Tested ^b	2	4
Human WNV Cases	0	0
Neuroinvasive WNV	0	0
WNV Fever	0	0
Human WNV Deaths	0	0
Presumptive Viremic Donors	1	1

^a469 mosquito pools at 81 different mosquito trapping sites

^bTesting among case reports received by PDPH only

State and National WNV Activity Reports

- [Pennsylvania Department of Health](https://www.pah.edu/)
- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](https://www.cdc.gov/)

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.