

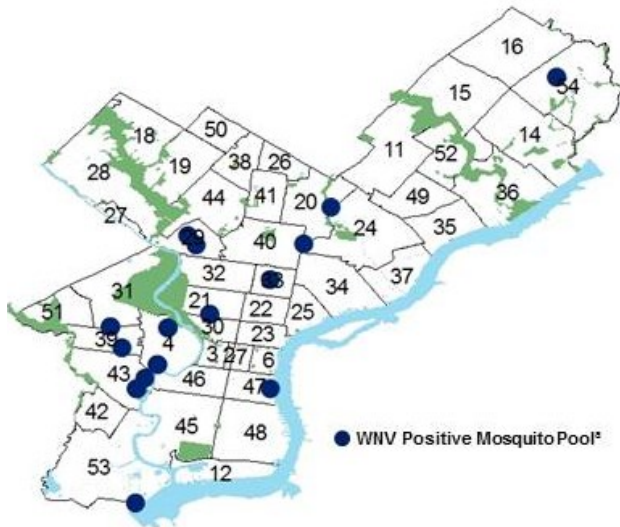
2019 Philadelphia West Nile Virus Activity Report

August 14, 2019

Since June 26th, 33 mosquito pools infected with West Nile virus (WNV) have been identified in Philadelphia. Positive mosquito pools also have been identified in neighboring counties in Pennsylvania. No human cases have been reported in the City. While the number of human cases of WNV and location of outbreaks has varied by season across the country, identification of mosquitoes infected with WNV remains the best predictor of increased risk for human infection in a given location. The WNV mosquito pool positivity in 2019 is lower than the historic median rate (0.05% vs. 1.65%), and lower than rates observed in 2012 and 2018 (13-30%), peak WNV activity seasons in Philadelphia.

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 2019, six locations in Philadelphia were treated to control adult mosquito populations.

West Nile Virus Mosquito and Human Case Surveillance, Philadelphia PA, Morbidity Week 31 and Cumulative 2019 Season Update



*6 locations had 2 or more mosquito pools test positive.

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.

	Week 31 (7/28–8/3)	2019 Season (5/1–8/3)
Mosquito Pools Tested ^a	62	605
WNV Positive Pools	12	33
Humans Tested ^b	0	10
Human WNV Cases	0	0

^a605 mosquito pools at 94 different mosquito trapping sites

^bTesting 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.