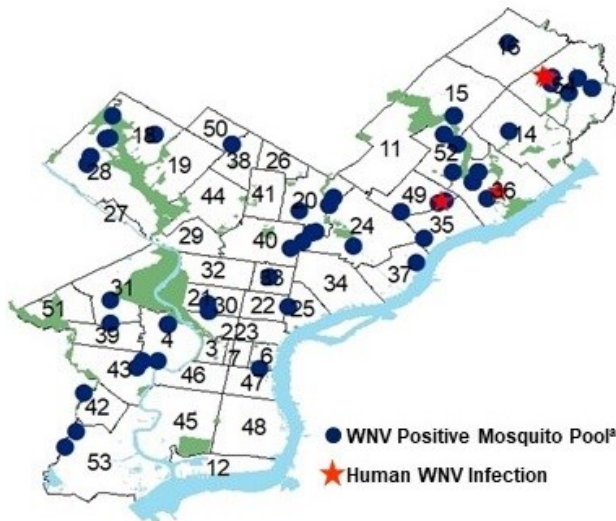


2020 Philadelphia West Nile Virus Activity Report September 29, 2020

Four human West Nile Virus (WNV) cases have been identified in Philadelphia during the 2020 season. The cases are adult males who developed neuroinvasive disease and were subsequently hospitalized. Positive mosquito pools continue to be identified across the City. The WNV mosquito pool positivity in 2020 is higher than the historic median rate (14.5% vs. 5.4%), and lower than rates observed in 2010 and 2018 (24-40%), 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 2020, 31 locations in Philadelphia have been treated to control adult mosquito populations.

West Nile Virus Mosquito and Human Case Surveillance, Philadelphia PA, Morbidity Week 38 and Cumulative 2020 Season Update



^a25 locations had 2-8 mosquito pools test positive.

| | Week 38 (9/13–9/19) | 2020 Season (5/1–9/19) |
|------------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|
| Mosquito Pools Tested ^a | 9 | 723 |
| WNV Positive Pools | 1 | 112 |
| Humans Tested ^b | 1 | 4 |
| Human WNV Cases | 1 | 4 |

^a723 mosquito pools at 133 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](#)

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.

Advise your patients to:

- Use repellent with DEET ($\geq 20\%$ 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.