Department of Public Health
CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

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

PALAK RAVAL-NELSON, PhD, MPH
*Health Commissioner*

SHARA EPSTEIN, MD
*Medical Director, Division of Disease Control*

JESSICA CAUM, MA, MPH
*Director, Division of Disease Control*

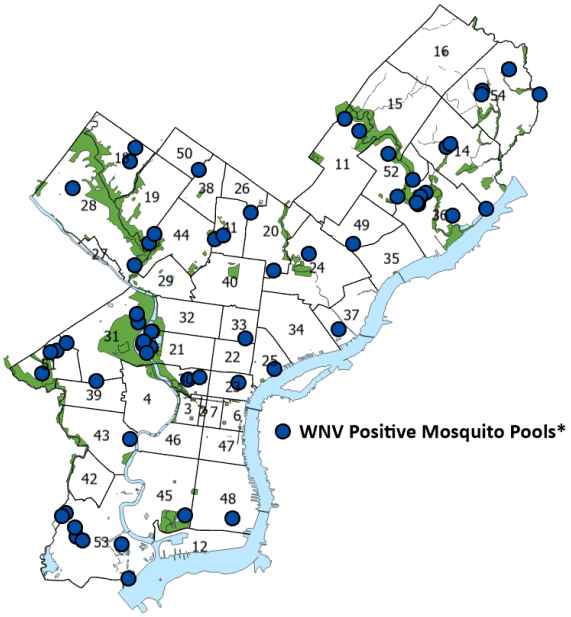
# 2026 Philadelphia West Nile Virus Activity Report
# September 4, 2026

For the 2026 season, the Philadelphia Department of Public Health (PDPH) has identified 4 neuroinvasive West Nile virus (WNV) infections in Philadelphia, including 1 death. One presumptive viremic donor was also identified.

The WNV pool positivity in 2026 is higher than the year-to-date historic median rate from 2001-2025 (29% vs 9%) and similar to rates observed in 2010, 2018, and 2022 (23%-46%), 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, 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 2026, 140 mosquito larvicide treatment events have been conducted across Philadelphia and 16 locations were treated to control adult mosquito populations.

## West Nile Virus Mosquito and Human Case Surveillance, Philadelphia PA, Morbidity Week 34 and Cumulative 2026 Season Update




*38 locations had 2-8 mosquito pools test positive

| | Week 34 (8/23-8/29) | 2026 Season (5/1-8/29) |
|---|---|---|
| Mosquito Pools Tested[A] | 86 | 482 |
| WNV Positive Pools | 42 | 140 |
| Human WNV Cases | 0 | 4 |
| Neuroinvasive WNV | 0 | 4 |
| WNV Fever | 0 | 0 |
| Human WNV Deaths | 0 | 1 |
| Presumptive Viremic Donors | 0 | 1 |

[A] 482 mosquito pools at 91 different mosquito trapping sites

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 serum and CSF for patients with unexplained encephalitis or meningitis. Absence of detectable antibodies in serum within 8 days does not exclude possible WNV.
- Report suspected and confirmed WNV infections and encephalitis cases to PDPH by telephone at 215-685-6741 during business hours or 215-686-4514 (press 1 for Unified Dispatch and ask for DDC on-call staff) after-hours, or fax at 215-238-6947.

### Advise your patients to:

- Use insect repellent that contains DEET (≥20% to also prevent tick bites) or another EPA-approved repellent and reapply as directed.
- 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 to PDPH's Mosquito Complaint hotline at 215-685-9000. Report sick, injured, or dead wild bird or mammal sightings to the PA Game Commission by calling 1-833-PGC-WILD (742-9453) or emailing pgc-wildlifehealth@pa.gov.