Saskatchewan West Nile Virus (WNV) Weekly Surveillance & Transmission Risk Report

FOR WEEK ENDING AUGUST 31, 2024

Highlights:

***Culex* spp. mosquitoes are beginning to decline in surveyed communities;** however, many will remain active and continue to bite until there is a widespread hard frost (i.e. two hours with temperatures below minus 2°C).

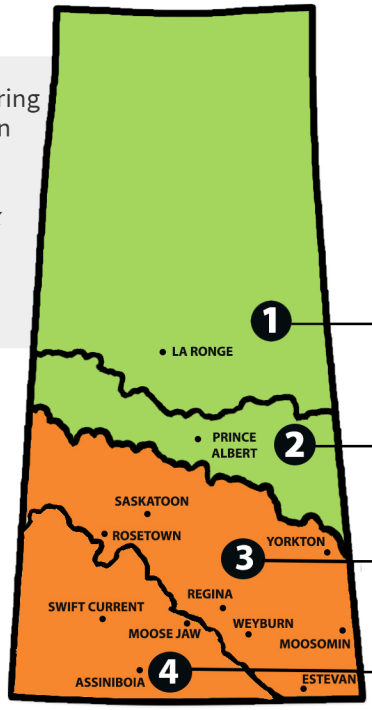
Mosquitoes infected with WNV were found in ecoregion 3 this week and may be present in other areas of the province. A moderate level of risk is maintained in ecoregions 3 and 4.

Three WNV-positive human laboratory test results were detected this week.

At this time of year, *Culex* spp. mosquitoes are most active on warm, overcast afternoons and evenings, and at dusk. As days grow shorter, dusk occurs earlier. Precautions against mosquito bites are advised (i.e., use insect repellents, cover up, and limit time outside during peak times of mosquito activity).

Risk of being bitten by an infected mosquito this week by zone

The risk of humans acquiring WNV infection depends on various factors including time of year, number and location of infected *Culex tarsalis* mosquitoes, and numbers of days with sufficient heat.



Risk level:
- Minimal
- Low
- Moderate
- High

Ecoregions 1 and 2 are not surveyed unless the risk of WNV increases signficantly.

Percentage of mosquito pools that tested positive for WNV this week and this season

	% THIS WEEK	COMPARED TO PREVIOUS WEEK	% THIS SEASON
OVERALL SK	2.9%	↑	0.6%
1	NO DATA	NO DATA	NO DATA
2	NO DATA	NO DATA	NO DATA
3	4.5%	↑	0.5%
4	0%	↓	1.2%

Human surveillance

	THIS WEEK	THIS SEASON
WNV positive lab tests	3	5 positive lab tests*
cases of WNV neuroinvasive disease	0	1 neuroinvasive case
deaths due to WNV	0	0 deaths due to WNV

*These include tests done by the Roy Romanow Provincial Laboratory (RRPL) and Canadian Blood Services (CBS). A positive laboratory test result does not necessarily indicate a current WNV infection. There may be multiple positive tests for one person. A positive WNV laboratory test result may be associated with a WNV Neuroinvasive Disease case.