

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

FOR WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER 14, 2024 (FINAL REPORT)

Highlights:



Culex spp. mosquitoes have declined to low levels. While mosquitoes infected with WNV have not been detected in surveyed communities for the past 2 weeks, they may be present in small numbers.



As of September 14, 7 WNV-positive horses and 64 WNV-positive birds¹ have been detected. Compared to mosquito surveillance, bird surveillance results are less reliable indicators of spatial and temporal risk for human infection.



In total, 3 human WNV neuroinvasive disease cases and 5 WNV-positive human laboratory test results were detected this season.



Possible transmission of WNV may occur until there is a widespread hard frost (i.e. 2 hours with temperatures below -2°C). To avoid being bitten, use mosquito repellents and cover up during peak times of mosquito activity.



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

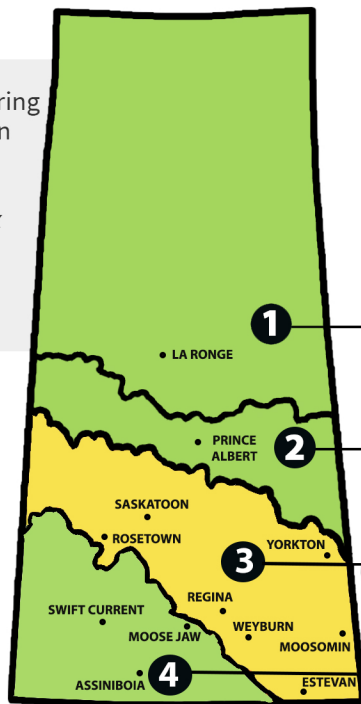


Percentage of mosquito pools that tested positive for WNV this week and this season

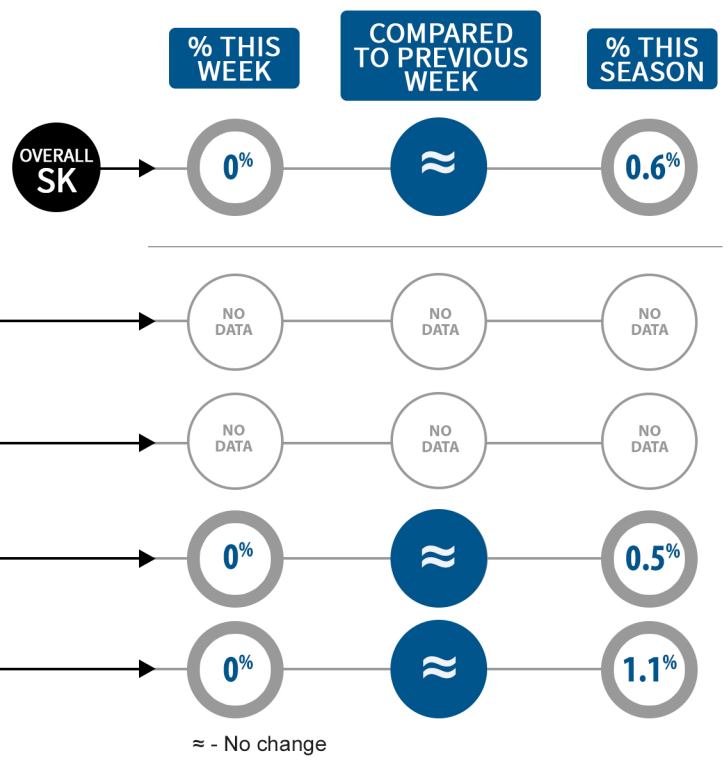
The risk of humans acquiring WNV infection depends on various factors including time of year, number and location of infected *Culex tarsalis* mosquitoes, and numbers of days with sufficient heat.

Risk level:

- Minimal
- Low
- Moderate
- High



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



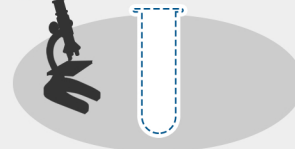
Human surveillance

THIS WEEK

0 WNV positive lab tests

1 case of WNV neuroinvasive disease

0 deaths due to WNV



THIS SEASON

5 positive lab tests*

3 neuroinvasive cases

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.
¹Information provided by the Western and Northern Region of the Canadian Wildlife Health Cooperative, Western College of Veterinary Medicine.