WEST NILE VIRUS SURVEILLANCE REPORT
Week 39: Sep 27-Oct 03, 2026

Cook County DEPT. of Public Health | BUILDING HEALTHIER COMMUNITIES

Purpose: This report serves as the official statement of West Nile virus activity in humans, mosquitoes, and birds within the jurisdiction of the Cook County Department of Public Health. All data are preliminary and may change as more reports are received.

Risk Assessment: The risk of human West Nile virus infection is **decreasing**.

Prevention: When outdoors between dusk and dawn, cover skin with lightly colored loose fitting clothing and use mosquito repellent with DEET, picaridin or oil of lemon eucalyptus. When applying repellent, always follow the directions on the product label. Get rid of standing water around your home in pet bowls, flower pots, old tires, baby pools and toys. Water that is allowed to stagnate for three or four days becomes a breeding ground for mosquitoes. Make sure your doors and windows have tightly fitting screens and repair any tears or other openings. Keep weeds and grass cut short and keep gutters clean and free of debris.

Mosquito[1-2] Surveillance:

Weekly Summary	Week 39
Number of mosquitoes tested	5381
Number of mosquito pools tested	167
Number of positive pools	15
Percent of pools testing positive	9%
Number of communities with positive pools	10

Year to Date Summary	2026	3 Year Average
Number of mosquitoes tested	311342	398734
Number of mosquito pools tested	8691	10731
Number of positive pools	2504	3263
Percent of pools testing positive	29%	30%
Number of communities with positive pools	82	75

1. Includes mosquito surveillance data from Cook County Department of Public Health, Northwest Mosquito Abatement District, North Shore Mosquito Abatement District, Desplaines Valley Mosquito Abatement District, South Cook County Mosquito Abatement District, and the Illinois Department of Public Health.

2. When mosquitoes are tested for West Nile virus, they are tested in groups, or "pools", of up to 50 mosquitoes. Therefore when a mosquito pool tests positive, the number of WNV positive mosquitoes in that pool is unknown. It is only known that at least one mosquito in the pool was positive.

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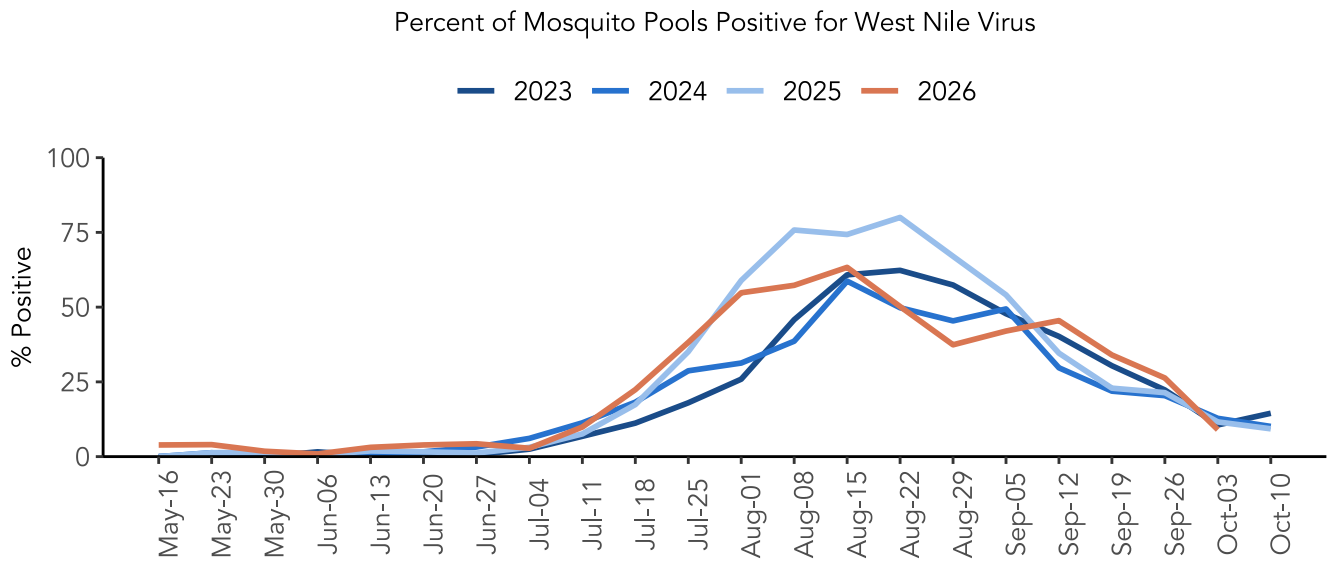
The following towns had traps that were positive for West Nile virus this week: Forest Park, Hodgkins, La Grange, Lansing, Northbrook, Oak Lawn, Oak Park, Prospect Heights, Summit, Willow Springs.

The following towns have had traps positive for West Nile virus at some point this season: Alsip, Arlington Heights, Barrington, Bartlett, Berkeley, Berwyn, Blue Island, Broadview, Brookfield, Calumet City, Chicago, Chicago Ridge, Cicero, Country Club Hills, Des Plaines, Desplaines, Dolton, Elgin, Elk Grove Village, Elmwood Park, Evanston, Evergreen Park, Flossmoor, Ford Heights, Forest Park, Franklin Park, Glencoe, Glenview, Glenwood, Hanover Park, Harvey, Harwood Heights, Hickory Hills, Hillside, Hodgkins, Hoffman Estates, Homewood, Justice, Kenilworth, La Grange, La Grange Park, Lansing, Lemont, Lincolnwood, Lynwood, Markham, Matteson, Maywood, Melrose Park, Midlothian, Morton Grove, Mount Prospect, Niles, Norridge, Northbrook, Northfield, Oak Forest, Oak Lawn, Oak Park, Orland Park, Palatine, Palos Heights, Park Ridge, Prospect Heights, Richton Park, River Forest, Riverdale, Rolling Meadows, Rosemont, Schaumburg, Schiller Park, Skokie, South Chicago Heights, South Holland, Streamwood, Summit, Thornton, Tinley Park, Wheeling, Willow Springs, Wilmette, Winnetka.

Not all towns have mosquito traps so West Nile virus activity may be unknown in your area. CCDPH recommends all residents practice good West Nile virus prevention habits throughout the summer season.



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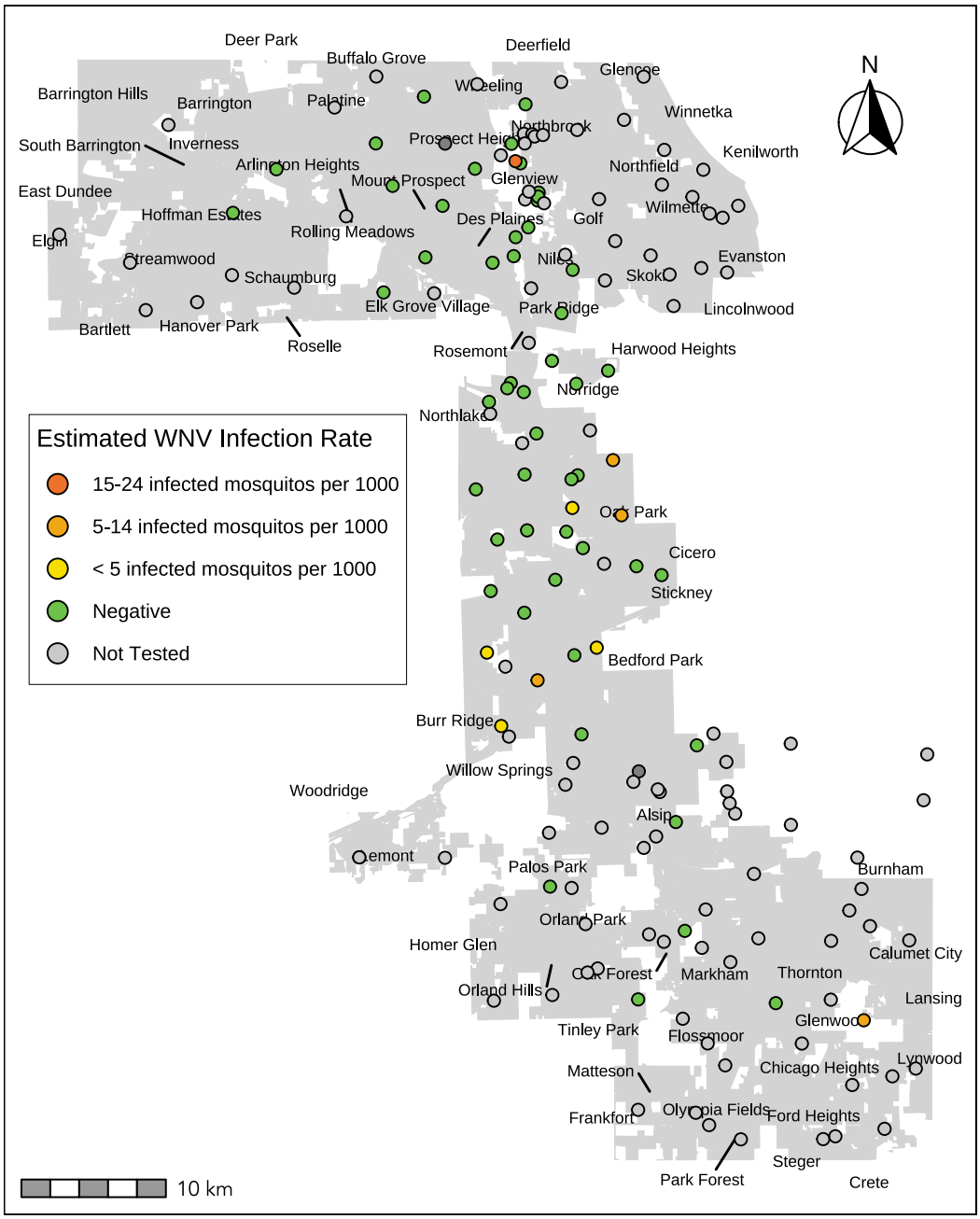
The following map shows mosquito traps in suburban Cook County. The estimated infection rate[4] is a measurement of how much West Nile virus activity is occurring in mosquitoes caught by that trap. Higher numbers means more mosquitoes capable of spreading West Nile virus.



4. Estimated infection rate is calculated by dividing the number of positive mosquito pools by the total number of mosquitoes tested and multiplying by 1000. This is also called the minimum infection rate and is the most conservative estimate of West Nile virus activity in mosquitoes.

5. Reasons a trap might not be tested include battery or other equipment failure or no mosquitoes present in the trap.

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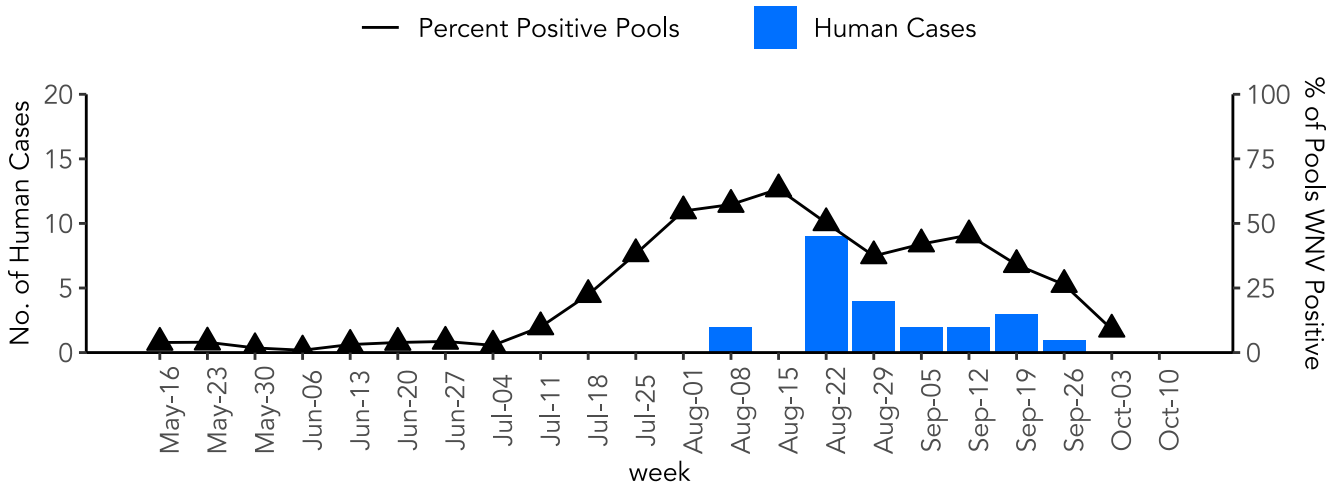
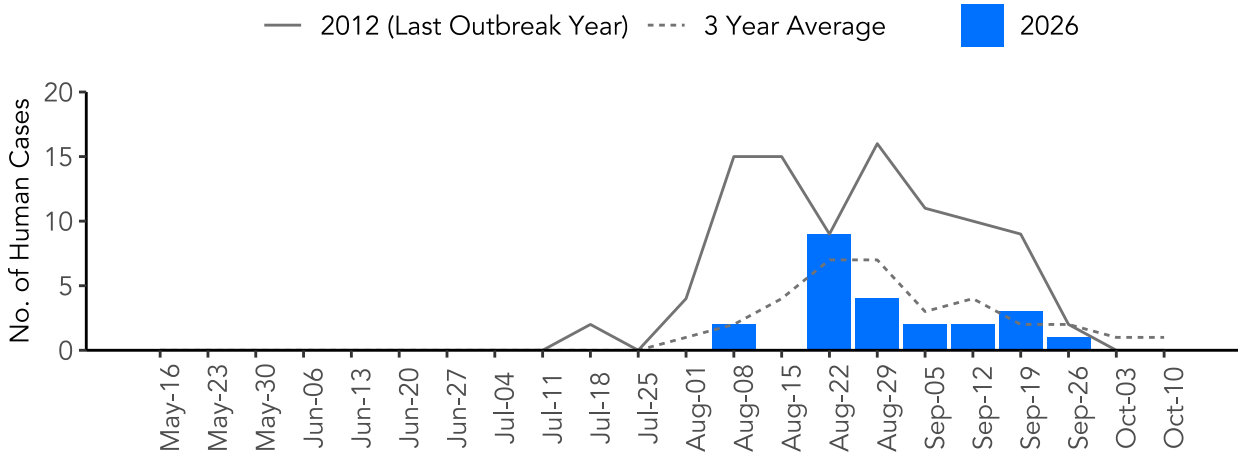
Bird Surveillance:

Due to the ongoing H5 bird flu outbreak, the Illinois Department of Public Health has paused testing of dead birds for West Nile Virus.

Human Case Surveillance:

The traditional WNV surveillance period began on May 10 for the 2026 season. Since May 10, 23 cases of West Nile virus have been reported; 12 cases were neuroinvasive. One death has been reported this season.