



Vector-Borne Disease

Weekly Surveillance Report

Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology | Acute Disease Prevention and Emergency Response & EH | [West Nile Virus Website](#)

All data presented in this report are provisional and may change as additional reports are received

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West Nile Virus (WNV)

WNV is endemic in Iowa and activity usually peaks in late summer and early fall. IDPH works in collaboration with Local Public Health (LPH) and other appropriate partners to investigate all reported cases.

During the 2016 surveillance season, 37 human cases of WNV were reported in 19 Iowa counties. In 2017, one mosquito pool has tested positive for WNV [Table 1]. No human or equine cases have been identified, thus far in 2017.

County	Human	Blood Donor	Horses	Mosquito Pools
				<i>Culex restuans</i>
Polk	0	0	0	1
Total	0	0	0	1

For additional information on Iowa West Nile virus activity, visit <http://idph.iowa.gov/cade/diseases-information/west-nile-virus>.

Malaria

Malaria is a serious and sometimes fatal disease caused by a parasite that commonly infects *Anopheles* mosquitoes. Malaria is spread to humans by the bite of the infected female mosquito. Only *Anopheles* mosquitoes can transmit malaria and they must have been infected through a previous blood meal taken from an infected person.

Six cases of malaria have been reported in Iowa. Cases are in travelers and immigrants returning from parts of the world where malaria transmission occurs. In 2016, 22 cases of malaria were reported to IDPH.

Rocky Mountain spotted fever (RMSF)

American dog ticks are carriers of *Rickettsia rickettsii*, the bacteria that causes RMSF. The American dog tick is the most common species of tick in Iowa and can be found in every county in the state. The tick is most active late March through August.

Two cases of RMSF have been reported in Iowa. In 2016, 11 cases of RMSF were reported to IDPH.

Ehrlichiosis/Anaplasmosis

There are at least three species of bacteria responsible for ehrlichiosis/anaplasmosis in the United States: *Ehrlichia chaffeensis*, *Ehrlichia ewingii*, and *Anaplasma phagocytophilum*. Ehrlichiae are transmitted by the bite of an infected lone star tick (*Amblyomma americanum*) which is found in Iowa. *A. phagocytophilum* is transmitted by the bite of an infected blacklegged tick (or deer tick, *Ixodes scapularis*) in Iowa. The clinical signs and symptoms of these infections are similar.

Two cases of ehrlichiosis/anaplasmosis have been reported in Iowa. In 2016, 14 cases of ehrlichiosis/anaplasmosis were reported to IDPH.

Lyme

Lyme disease is caused by *Borrelia burgdorferi* and in Iowa is transmitted to humans by the bite of an infected tick, the blacklegged tick (or deer tick, *Ixodes scapularis*). Ticks are most likely to spread the Lyme disease bacterium during their pre-adult stage (nymph). They are most common between May and July and found in tall grasses and brush of wooded areas.

As of June 23rd, 62 confirmed and probable cases of Lyme have been reported in Iowa. In 2016, 232 cases of Lyme disease were reported to IDPH.