



Vector-Borne Disease

2022 Weekly Surveillance Report

Iowa Department of Public Health | Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology | [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.

In 2021, six human cases were identified. Thus far in 2022, no human cases have been detected and one mosquito sample has tested positive for WNV [Table 1].

Table 1. Human /Equine/ Mosquito Surveillance, 2022 Positive Samples

| County | Human | Blood Donor | Horse | Mosquitoes |
|--------------|----------|-------------|----------|-----------------------|
| | | | | <i>Culex restuans</i> |
| Black Hawk | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Total | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |

Mosquito Surveillance

IDPH in collaboration with Iowa State University (ISU) and local public environmental health partners conducts ecological surveillance in 14 counties across the state by monitoring mosquitoes and testing for WNV infected populations.

Table 2. 2022 mosquitoes tested for West Nile virus

| Species | # of Samples Tested | WNV Negative | WNV Positive |
|--------------------------|---------------------|--------------|--------------|
| <i>Cx. pipiens</i> | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| <i>Cx. pipiens</i> group | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| <i>Cx. tarsalis</i> | 4 | 4 | 0 |
| <i>Cx. restuans</i> | 85 | 84 | 1 |
| <i>Cx. erraticus</i> | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| <i>Cx. species</i> | 3 | 3 | 0 |
| Total | 96 | 95 | 1 |

Dengue Fever

Dengue is a disease caused by any one of four related viruses, which are passed by the bite of an infected *Aedes aegypti* or *Aedes albopictus* mosquito. Infection with one of the four viruses does not protect against the others and consecutive infections put people at greater risk of developing dengue hemorrhagic fever (DHF).

Dengue is not found in Iowa. Cases are in travelers and immigrants returning from parts of the world where dengue transmission occurs. One case of dengue has been reported in Iowa, thus far in 2022. In 2021, two cases of dengue were reported to IDPH.

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.

Two 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 2021, 17 cases of malaria were reported to IDPH.

