Kansas West Nile Virus Weekly Surveillance and Transmission Risk Report

Week Ending October 10, 2020 (MMWR Week 41)

**RISK LEVEL**

- **Minimal**: Mosquito surveillance is conducted mid-May – mid-October however infection with WNV is unlikely. This does not mean the risk is zero.
  
  **To Prepare:**
  - **Mosquito-Proof Your Home:**
    - Keep screens on windows and doors in good repair.
    - Use air conditioning if you have it.
    - DRAIN - Reduce number of mosquitoes around your home by emptying standing water from flowerpots, gutters, buckets, pool covers, pet water dishes, discarded tires, and bird baths on a regular basis.

- **Low**: The mosquitoes that carry WNV are present in small numbers. There is a low probability of being bitten by an infected mosquito.
  
  **To Prevent:**
  - Wear mosquito repellent between dusk to dawn
  - Wear long sleeves and long pants from dusk to dawn
  - Use mosquito netting on baby carriages and playpens

- **Moderate**: There is a moderate probability of being bitten by a WNV mosquito.
  
  **To Prevent:** add to previous level
  - Wear mosquito repellent
  - Wear long sleeves and long pants when weather permits
  - Use mosquito netting on baby carriages and playpens
  - Dump standing water twice weekly

- **High**: This week has been identified as 'high risk' of being bitten by a WNV mosquito based on: high number of WNV mosquitoes identified and high number of historical human cases of WNV.
  
  **To Prevent:** add to previous level
  - People over 50 or those who are immune compromised may consider adjusting outdoor activity to avoid peak mosquito hours (from dusk to dawn).
Highlights this week:

- **Northwest:** Moderate risk due to fewer *Culex* species mosquitoes trapped during this week and lower average daily temperature over the previous two weeks.
- **North Central:** Moderate risk due to fewer *Culex* species mosquitoes trapped during this week and lower average daily temperature over the previous two weeks.
- **Northeast:** Low risk due to the relative abundance of adult female *Culex* species mosquitoes well below average for the area when compared to the previous three years and lower average daily temperature over the previous two weeks.
- **Southwest:** Moderate risk due to fewer *Culex* species mosquitoes trapped during this week and lower average daily temperature over the previous two weeks.
- **South Central:** Moderate risk due to fewer *Culex* species mosquitoes trapped during this week and lower average daily temperature over the previous two weeks.
- **Southeast:** Low risk due to few *Culex* species mosquitoes trapped during this week and lower average daily temperature over the previous two weeks.

**Methods for Risk Assessment**

We utilize three factors in our risk assessment model; temperature, mosquito surveillance data, and human cases of WNV. Each factor has set benchmarks and each benchmark is assigned a value. The values from these three categories are averaged. The average rating is assigned a WNV risk level for each week. The three factors are as follows:

- High-risk environmental conditions include above-normal temperatures with or without above-normal rainfall. We use the average daily temperature during the prior 2 weeks as our benchmark.
- *Culex* species of mosquitoes serve as the main source of WNV transmission to people and horses. Relative abundance of *Culex* species mosquitoes compared to the same week in the previous year and the number of *Culex* species mosquitoes are evaluated each week. Greater than 40 *Culex* species mosquitoes collected in a week will also increases this factor to its maximum value.
- Number of human cases of WNV each week based on the average number of cases in the previous five years.


For more information on arboviral disease surveillance in Kansas, visit our website at; [http://www.kdheks.gov/epi/arboviral_disease.htm](http://www.kdheks.gov/epi/arboviral_disease.htm) or contact the Kansas Department of Health and Environment’s Infectious Disease Epidemiology and Response section at 1-877-427-7317 or e-mail at kdhe.epihotline@ks.gov.