

# The West Nile Weekly

## What does this week look like historically?

Historically, around 4.2% of cases are transmitted in the week of July 31st - Aug 6th, and around 44% of total cases for the year, about 2 in 5, have been transmitted by the end of this week.

## What to expect?

Our model estimates that statewide risk of infection July 24th - 30th is still lower than average (Fig 1). There is, however, a cluster of counties in the southeast with average and higher-than-average estimated risk for this point in the year (Fig 2). At least three of these counties (Davison, Hutchinson, Lincoln) have already reported human cases.

We expect that cases will occur in five to six counties. Brown remains the most likely to have cases, with an estimated 45.9% (nearly 1 in 2) chance of at least one human case.

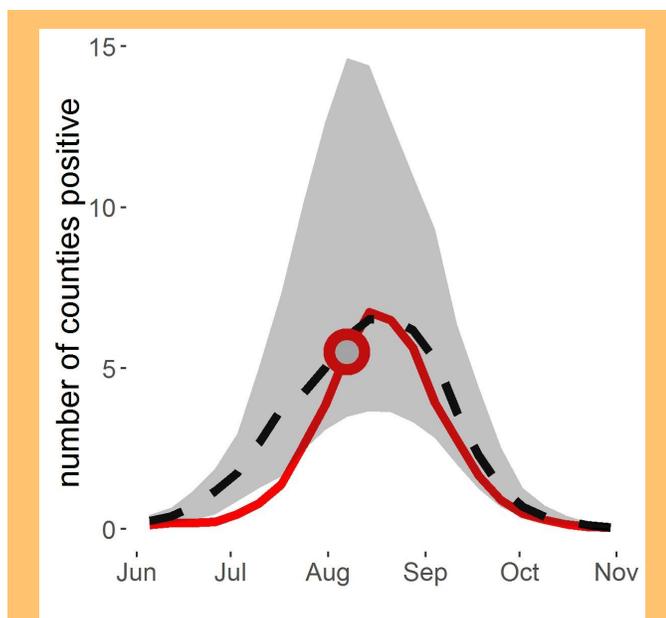
Our expectations for the season have not changed substantially in the past week, because the data we use in

our model have remained stable. As of the 30th, 1445 pools have been tested with 28 (1.9%) positive. This percentage is only slightly up from last week's rate (1.7%), and this may be a signal that risk will soon peak. Cases will still occur as long as the virus is circulating, but the sooner it stops multiplying and dies off, the better.

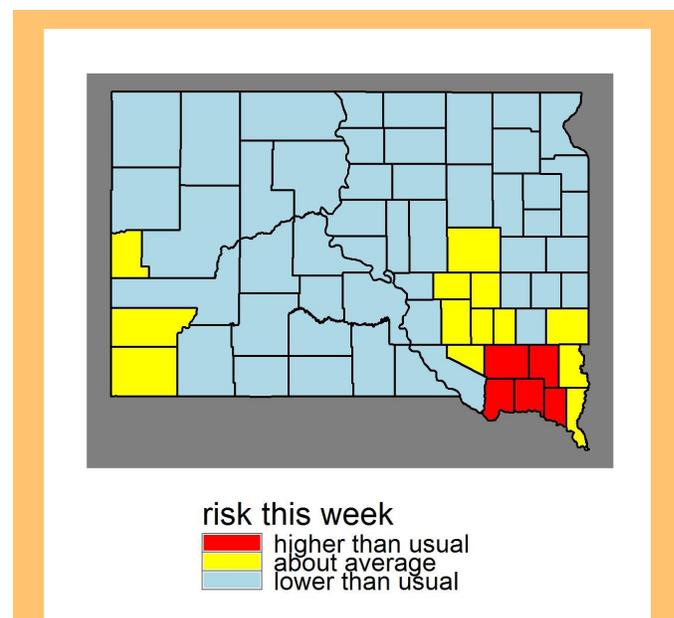
If the mosquito infection rate does begin to fall in the next week or so, this would be good news. However, mosquitoes may take advantage of the higher humidity in recent days to feed more often than they have been. Weather in these next few weeks is key, we believe, to the rest of the season.

## Current recommendations?

We continue to recommend mosquito control, particularly in the southeastern part of the state. Destruction of infected adult mosquitoes can prevent infectious bites, especially in these next few weeks, which represent the height of WNV season in typical years.



**Figure 1:** Estimated risk for 2017 (red), with average risk in other years (dashed) and 50% confidence interval for historical risk (grey).



**Figure 2:** Risk for this week, compared to risk in this county, this week, in the average WNV year.