

# The West Nile Weekly

## How does 2018 look?

Here we summarize all the indicators we have for 2018. It is still very early in the season and we do not yet have many of the pieces of data we will use to create our predictions for the year. At the moment, the weather data we have seems to indicate an average year for WNV, which still means hundreds of cases.

In the table below, we look at each piece of evidence that can be used to predict how many cases we will probably see in 2018. The last column of this table is most important.

**Red** in this column means this piece of evidence puts 2018 in the upper 1/3 of years on record (> 80)

**Yellow** means that 2018 looks about average compared to all other years when we use this piece of evidence. We will still have WNV cases (probably 40-80), but probably not more than usual.

**Green** means that this piece of evidence puts 2018 in the lowest 1/3 of years on record (< 40).

**Grey** means we do not yet have enough data to compare 2018 to other years. These pieces of evidence are typically the most important, and will become available as the year progresses.

Type of evidence:	It's a bad sign if:	For 2018, it has been:	What does this mean for WNV in 2018?
first human case	much earlier than usual	not enough data yet	unknown
first positive mosquito pool	much earlier than usual	not enough data yet	unknown
mosquito infection rate	much higher than usual	not enough data yet	unknown
temperatures late last year	much warmer than usual	about average	average risk
temperatures early this year	much warmer than usual	lower for a while, but record highs are now being set	average risk
humidity early this year	much more humid than usual	slightly more humid than average	average risk
reports of WNV elsewhere	more cases than usual	not enough data yet	unknown
model predictions	more cases predicted than usual	average predictions	average risk