

# The West Nile Weekly

## What does this week look like historically?

Historically, around 72% of total cases for the year, 5 in 7, have been transmitted by the end of this week. Even in 2012, in which cases were far later than usual, the peak in risk has occurred by this point. We are nearing the end of the WNV season in 2018 in SD.

It should be kept in mind that case numbers will continue to climb as cases are diagnosed and reported to the state, even while risk itself is declining. In some rare cases, it can even take months for a case to be diagnosed and reported, but risk is declining by this point in all years on record.

## What to expect?

We expect 4 counties to report cases this week - risk is down around 33% from risk last week, and we are definitely nearing the end of the season (Fig. 1). Risk this week is average when compared to this week in other years, in all of the state's counties (Fig. 2), but we expect that recent colder weather will reduce the risk in upcoming weeks.

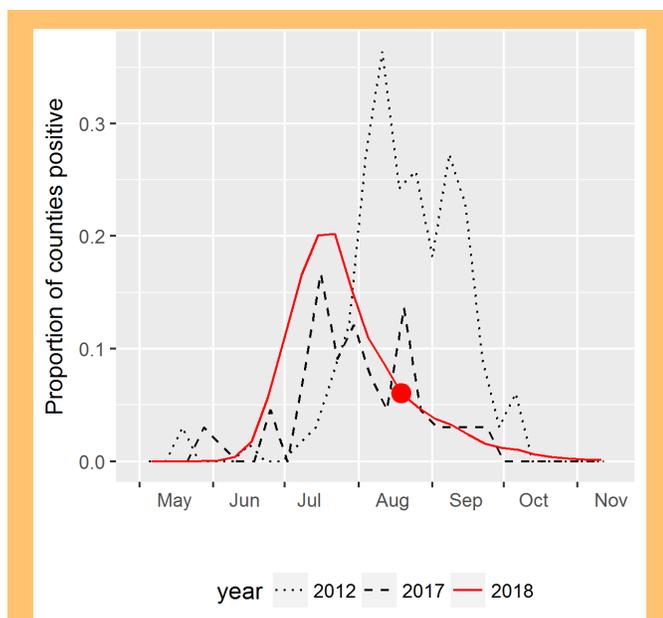
## How are the mosquitoes?

With 2263 *Culex tarsalis* pools tested, 90 pools (4.0%) have been positive in 2018. This is a substantial increase up from 3.2% last week, but is still consistent with model predictions for this point in the year. The increase is due to a large number of pools reported this week, some of which were from earlier in the season.

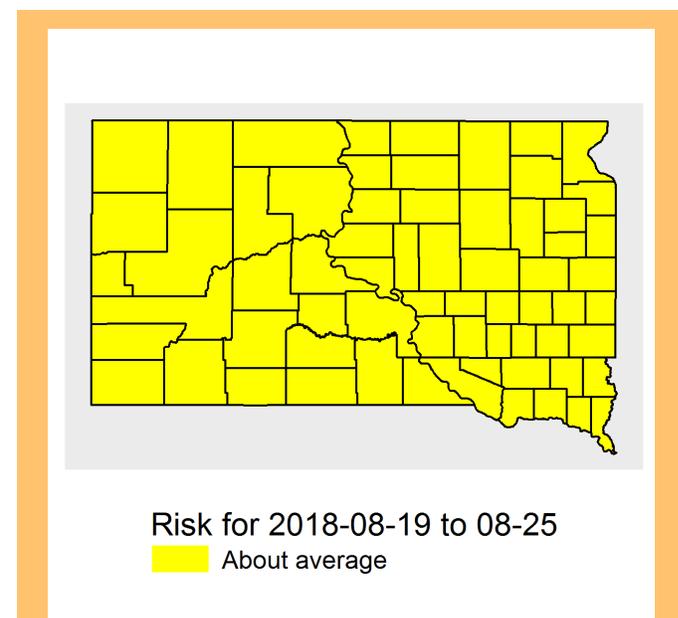
## Current recommendations?

With school back in session, there may be new opportunities for exposure to mosquitoes and the virus as schools throw outdoor, evening events. This is especially true for college-aged students, who should be reminded to use bug spray while drinking on the front lawn at dusk, which will almost certainly attract mosquitoes.

Large, outdoor events should be targeted for mosquito control, but both the mosquito and virus are declining on their own as the weather cools down, and there is less of an opportunity to make an impact on risk of infection by spraying.



**Figure 1:** Estimated risk in 2018 with this week emphasized by a dot. This year is compared to cases observed in 2012 (dot) and 2017 (dash).



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