

# The West Nile Weekly

## What does this week look like historically?

Historically, around 87% of total cases for the year, 7 in 8, have been transmitted by the end of this week. Even in 2012, when cases were transmitted late in the year, risk was definitely declining by this point. Except for certain unlucky citizens, the 2018 WNV season is probably over.

## What to expect?

We expect 2 counties to report cases this week - risk is down around 33% from risk last week (Fig. 1). Risk this week is average in all of the state's counties, when compared to this week in other years (Fig. 2). This means that risk is relatively low - except for 2012, WNV has begun to grind to a halt in all other years on record.

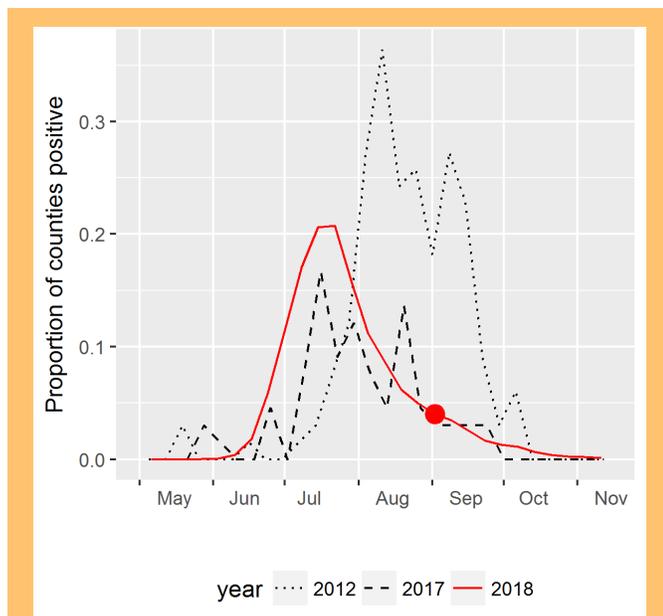
The chaotic weather expected for this week manifested in a series of thunderstorms, with rapidly-fluctuating temperatures. Although the state has been far more humid than normal, colder temperatures will dampen risk as mosquitoes begin to slow down.

## Current recommendations?

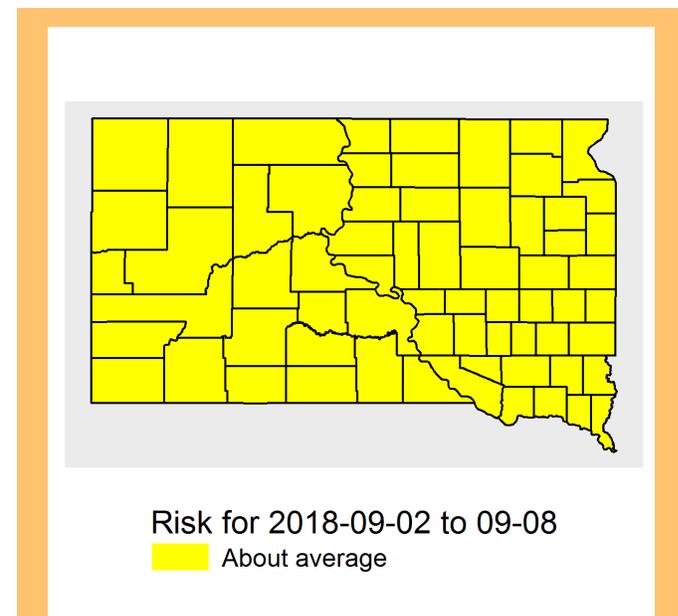
Only around 1 in 8 cases is still to be transmitted at this point if we trust historical trends, and this is consistent with the model's predictions for this year. In other words, it looks like 2018 is wrapping up like most years tend to - risk will continue to decline as colder temperatures usher us into the Fall.

Any spraying will have just a small effect on risk and will likely prevent few if any human cases. Spraying at this point will likely serve only to encourage pesticide resistance in the mosquito. Certainly, large outdoor evening events might still warrant treatment, but only if resources are available and the area is known to be especially mosquito-prone.

At this point, diagnosis and reporting of cases is more important than prevention. The majority of the damage has already been done by the virus, but it may take some weeks or months for all cases to be reported. Cases and viremic blood donors will continue appearing in the data, even while risk is actually decreasing.



**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.