



-- Public Health Alert --

Maricopa County is facing the highest levels of West Nile Virus in the last decade. We need your help educating residents.

Current Situation with West Nile Virus (WNV)

- Mosquito activity and human cases of mosquito-borne disease are all across Maricopa County
- Numbers for 2019's human cases and mosquito samples already exceed last year's totals
- As of August 28, there have been **135 WNV cases** and **8 WNV deaths**
 - Same time last year: 8 WNV cases and 2 WNV deaths

West Nile Virus (WNV) and St. Louis Encephalitis (SLE) By the Numbers - [Updated weekly](#)

HUMANS	This year (year-to-date)	Last year (total)
WNV human cases	130	24
SLE human cases	4	0
WNV human deaths	9	6
SLE human deaths	0	0

Human case data is accurate as of August 28, 2019

MOSQUITOES	This year (year-to-date)	Last year (total)
Positive WNV mosquito samples	415	140
Positive SLE mosquito samples	197	104

Mosquito data is accurate as of August 29, 2019

About West Nile Virus (WNV)

- West Nile Virus is a disease transmitted by the bite of an infected mosquito
- Only **20% of people** who are infected experience symptoms, which are usually flu-like symptoms
- About **1 in 150 people** who are infected develop a severe, neuroinvasive illness affecting the central nervous system, such as encephalitis or meningitis
- About **1 out of 10 people** who develop severe illness affecting the central nervous system die

About St. Louis Encephalitis (SLE)

- St. Louis Encephalitis (SLE) is a disease that is also spread by mosquitoes and has symptoms that are very similar to WNV
- A different test is required to diagnose SLE

Contact

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How Maricopa County is Responding

Maricopa County Department of Public Health (MCDPH) and Environmental Services Department (MCESD) are working to reduce the risk to the community.

Identifying and addressing risk

- MCESD is conducting surveillance, mosquito testing, and targeted fogging
- MCDPH is interviewing all reported cases to determine potential exposure sites and share with MCESD Vector Control
- MCDPH notified healthcare providers in May and August so providers can be aware and watchful for signs and symptoms
- MCDPH alerted blood banks of the first human case of WNV, which triggered enhanced donor testing

Promoting prevention

- MCDPH is enhancing prevention messaging to the public, partners, and medical community
- MCDPH and MCESD published additional social media prevention messaging leading into July Fourth holiday
- MCESD published two videos promoting prevention
- MCESD and MCDPH have been promoting mosquito bite prevention through print, TV, and radio; through FightTheBiteMaricopa.org, and through social media
- MCESD's targeted July Fourth messaging on NextDoor reached about 75,000 residents
- MCESD and MCDPH will do another strong social media push for Labor Day weekend

Weekly case counts, mosquito reporting forms, PSA videos, safety tips, and more are all available at FightTheBiteMaricopa.org.

