Vector-borne Surveillance Report

CDC Week 20: May 17 - 23, 2026

Highlights:

- ***NJ's mosquito surveillance and testing program started on May 18th, and three mosquito pools have tested positive for West Nile Virus (WNV): two pools in Middlesex County and one pool in Atlantic County both collected in week 20. These are the earliest detections of WNV in those counties, although WNV has been detected in earlier weeks elsewhere in NJ in prior years.***
- ***There have been no human or animal cases of WNV in 2026. There have been no human, animal, or mosquito detections of Eastern equine encephalitis (EEE) or Jamestown Canyon virus (JCV) in 2026.***
- ***The number of Lyme disease cases is consistent with seasonal levels.***
- ***Tick-related ED visits continue to increase and are above the 5-year average but are comparable to 2025 activity.***

Human Vector-borne Disease Cases

N.J.A.C. 8:57 mandates public health reporting of communicable diseases. 2026 data reflect cases that have been approved by NJDOH and do not include cases under investigation. Due to the time needed for public health investigation, the number of tickborne diseases (except for Lyme disease) may be significantly lower than actual counts and should be interpreted with caution. All 2026 numbers are preliminary and subject to change. Some cases are considered "presumptive positive" and are pending additional testing. Case counts for 2025 reflect the annual total for that year.

Mosquito-borne Diseases			Tickborne Diseases/Conditions		
	2026	2025		**2026**	2025
Chikungunya	**1**	10	Alpha-Gal Syndrome	**89**	499
Dengue	**2**	14	Anaplasmosis	**49**	311
Malaria	**31**	89	Babesiosis	**8**	372
West Nile	**-**	23	Ehrlichiosis	**12**	98
Eastern Equine Encephalitis	**-**	-	Hard Tick Relapsing Fever	**1**	14
Jamestown Canyon	**-**	-	Lyme Disease	**1921**	6597
Zika	**-**	-	Powassan	**-**	2
			Spotted Fever Group Rickettsioses	**2**	25
			Tularemia	**-**	1

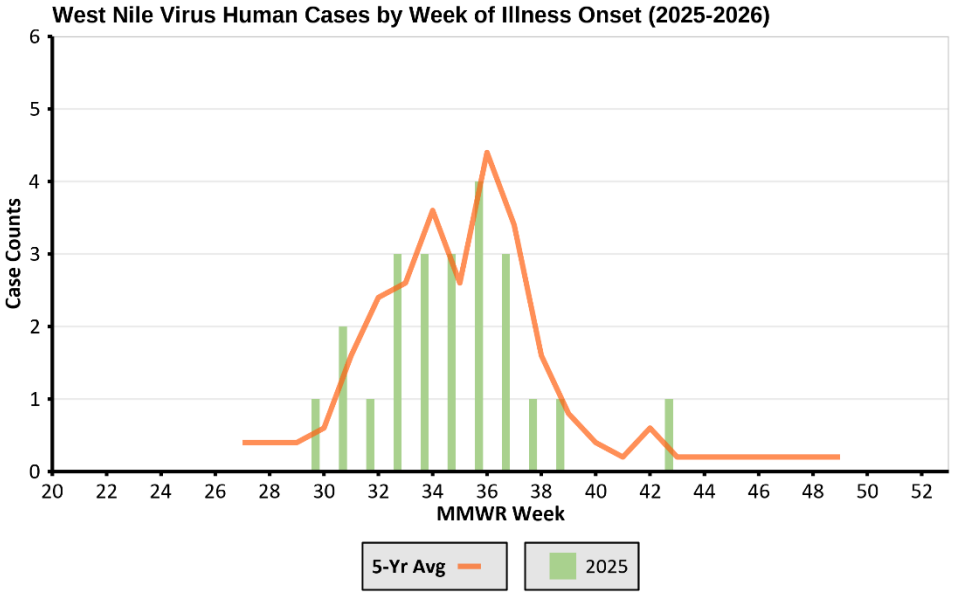
Mosquito-borne Disease Activity

The New Jersey Department of Health Public Health and Environmental Laboratories (PHEL) and the Cape May County Department of Mosquito Control Bio-safety Level 3 Laboratory (CMBSL3) perform arboviral testing on mosquito pools collected by county mosquito control agencies throughout NJ.

Test results may be incomplete as counties submit pools for testing on specific weekdays. Data reflects test results downloaded from JerseySurv on May 28, 2026 at 12:00 pm.

West Nile Virus

- There have been no human or animal cases of WNV reported in NJ in 2026.
- State mosquito surveillance and testing started May 18th, although some counties collected "early season" samples (252 mosquito pools collected prior to week 20). Eighteen counties have submitted mosquitoes for testing in 2026 and out of 378 pools tested, 3 have tested positive for WNV, 2 in Middlesex County and 1 in Atlantic County collected in week 20. In 2025, the earliest WNV detection was reported in Gloucester County, collected week 16.
- 2026 WNV detections were in *Culex pipiens/restuans/salinarius* mosquitoes.



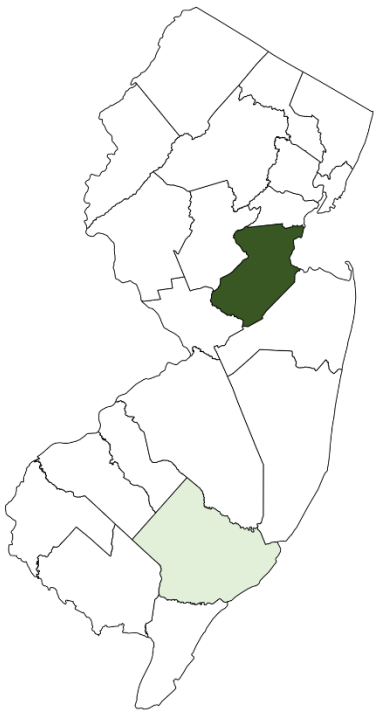
WNV Human Activity				
	Cases		PVD*	
County	2026	2025	2026	2025
Atlantic		2		
Bergen		2		
Burlington		2		2
Camden		1		
Cape May				
Cumberland				
Essex		1		
Gloucester		1		
Hudson		1		
Hunterdon				
Mercer		1		
Middlesex		4		2
Monmouth		2		
Morris		2		
Ocean				
Passaic		1		
Salem				
Somerset				
Sussex		1		1
Union		2		
Warren				
Total	**0**	**23**	**0**	**5**

*Positive Viremic Donors

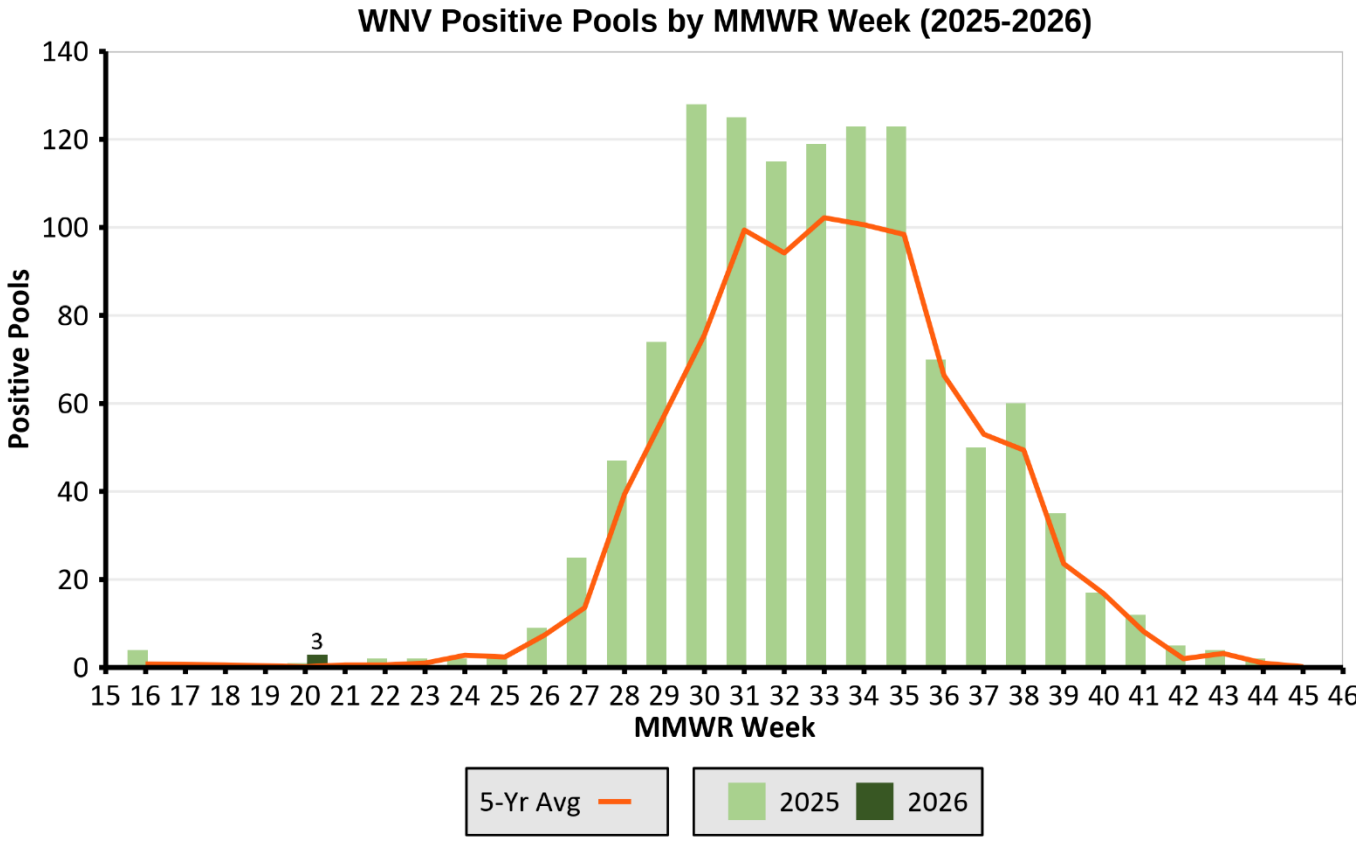
WNV Mosquito Pool Testing						
	WEEK 20 Positive Pools		Cumulative Pos. Total (WEEK 20)		# Pools Tested	Cumulative MIR
County	2026	2025	2026	2025	2026	2026[1]
Middlesex	2	-	2	-	20	1.76
Atlantic	1	-	1	-	33	1.11
Bergen	-	-	-	-	11	0.00
Burlington	-	-	-	-	1	0.00
Camden	-	-	-	-	20	0.00
Cape May	-	-	-	-	5	0.00
Cumberland	-	-	-	-	20	0.00
Essex	-	-	-	-	46	0.00
Gloucester	-	-	-	5	35	0.00
Hunterdon	-	-	-	-	30	0.00
Mercer	-	-	-	-	17	0.00
Monmouth	-	-	-	-	20	0.00
Morris	-	-	-	-	20	0.00
Ocean	-	-	-	-	22	0.00
Passaic	-	-	-	-	18	0.00
Salem	-	-	-	-	20	0.00
Sussex	-	-	-	-	20	0.00
Warren	-	1	-	1	20	0.00
Hudson	-	-	-	-	-	-
Somerset	-	-	-	-	-	-
Union	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	**3**	**1**	**3**	**6**	**378**	**-**

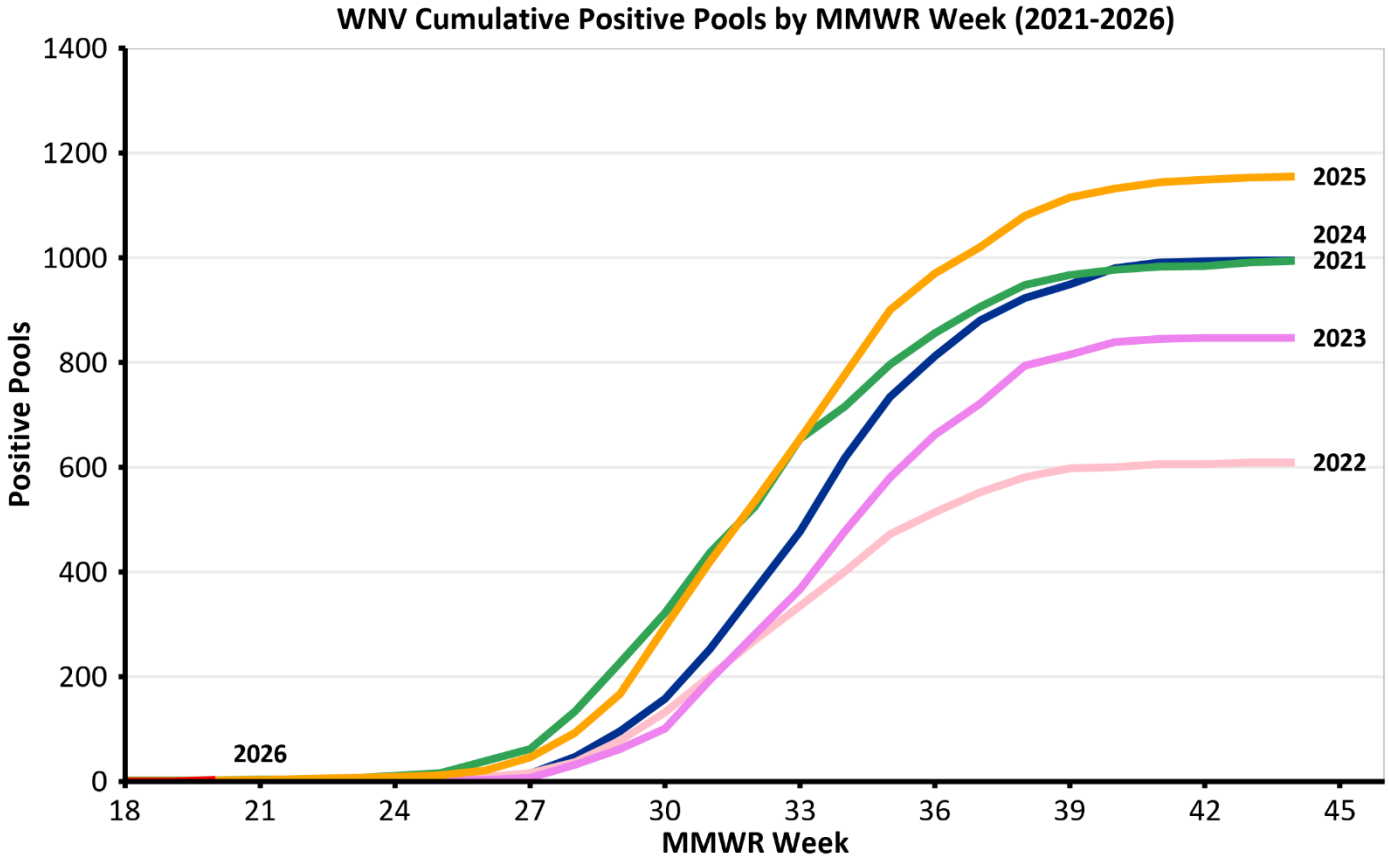
WEEK 20: May 11 - 17, 2025; May 17 - 23, 2026

Cumulative WNV MIR, 2026

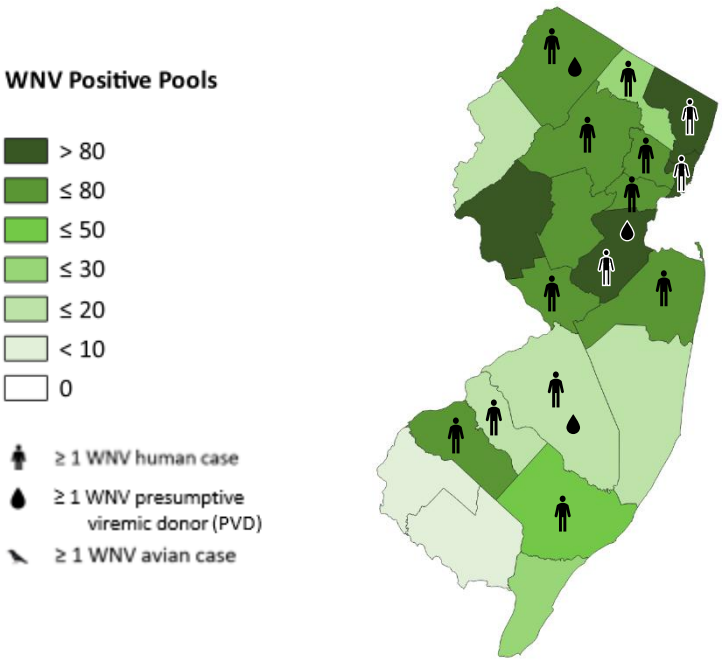


Minimum infection rate (MIR) is defined as the number of positive mosquito pools divided by the total number of mosquitoes tested x 1000

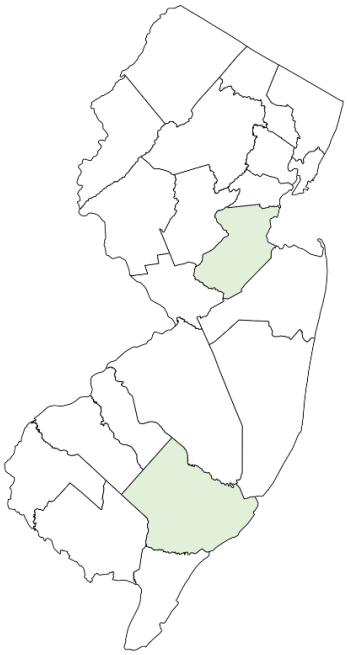

WNV Positive Pools by MMWR Week (2025-2026)
Positive Pools
MMWR Week
3
5-Yr Avg
2025
2026


WNV Cumulative Positive Pools by MMWR Week (2021-2026)
Positive Pools
MMWR Week
2025
2024
2021
2023
2022
2026

2025 WNV Activity

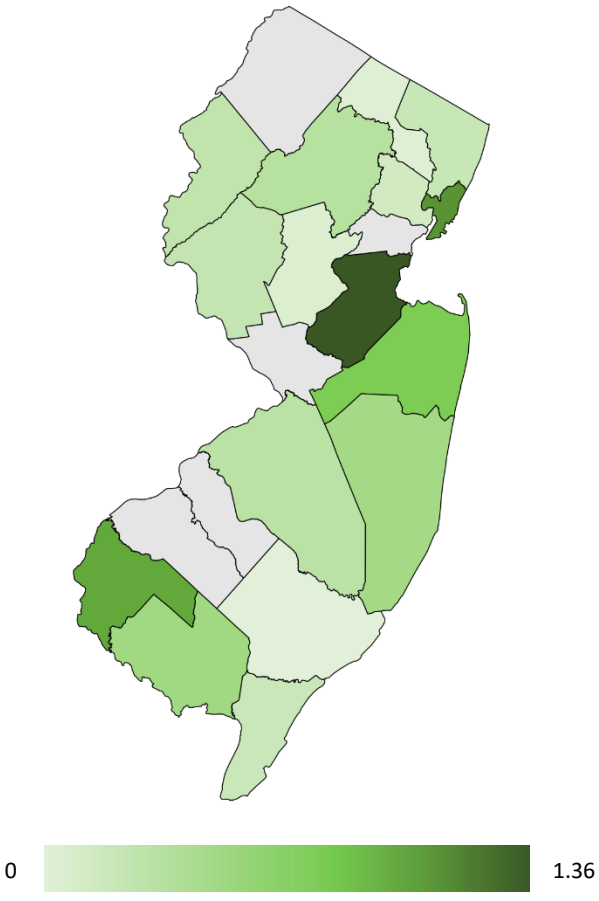


2026 WNV Activity



Average *Culex* Mosquitoes per Trap Night (average mosquito abundance)	
County	**WEEK 19 - 20 Average Abundance***
Middlesex	1.36
Hudson	1.12
Salem	1.03
Monmouth	0.80
Cumberland	0.56
Ocean	0.54
Morris	0.41
Burlington	0.38
Warren	0.34
Hunterdon	0.32
Bergen	0.29
Cape May	0.28
Essex	0.23
Somerset	0.16
Passaic	0.14
Atlantic	0.11
Camden	No available data
Gloucester	No available data
Mercer	No available data
Sussex	No available data
Union	No available data

Average Mosquito Abundance, *Culex* spp., Week 19 – 20*



[t] Average mosquito abundance is defined as the average number of mosquitoes caught per trap night over a defined period and is calculated based on *Culex pipiens, restuans, and salinarius* species caught in NJ Light Traps (NJLT) only. These species are associated with WNV transmission.

Eastern Equine Encephalitis

- There have been no human or animal cases of EEE reported in 2026. EEE human cases were last reported in 2024 (2 cases).
- Out of 375 mosquito pools from 18 counties tested for EEE, none have tested positive.
- In 2025, the first EEE positive pool was detected in week 33 in Atlantic County.

EEE Mosquito Pool Testing

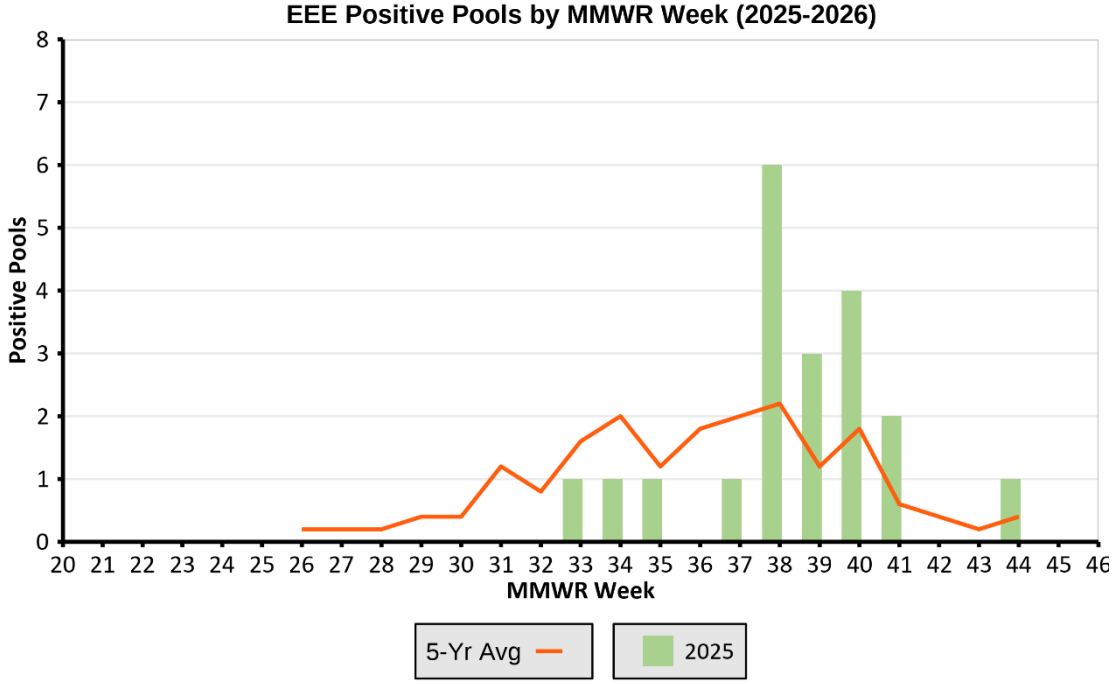
County	WEEK 20 Positive Pools 2026	WEEK 20 Positive Pools 2025	Cumulative Pos. Total (WEEK 20) 2026	Cumulative Pos. Total (WEEK 20) 2025	# Pools Tested 2026	Cumulative MIR 2026[1]
Atlantic	-	-	-	-	33	0.00
Bergen	-	-	-	-	11	0.00
Burlington	-	-	-	-	1	0.00
Camden	-	-	-	-	20	0.00
Cape May	-	-	-	-	5	0.00
Cumberland	-	-	-	-	20	0.00
Essex	-	-	-	-	46	0.00
Gloucester	-	-	-	-	32	0.00
Hunterdon	-	-	-	-	30	0.00
Mercer	-	-	-	-	17	0.00
Middlesex	-	-	-	-	20	0.00
Monmouth	-	-	-	-	20	0.00
Morris	-	-	-	-	20	0.00
Ocean	-	-	-	-	22	0.00
Passaic	-	-	-	-	18	0.00
Salem	-	-	-	-	20	0.00
Sussex	-	-	-	-	20	0.00
Warren	-	-	-	-	20	0.00
Hudson	-	-	-	-	-	-
Somerset	-	-	-	-	-	-
Union	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**375**	**-**

WEEK 20: May 11 - 17, 2025; May 17 - 23, 2026

Cumulative EEE MIR, 2026

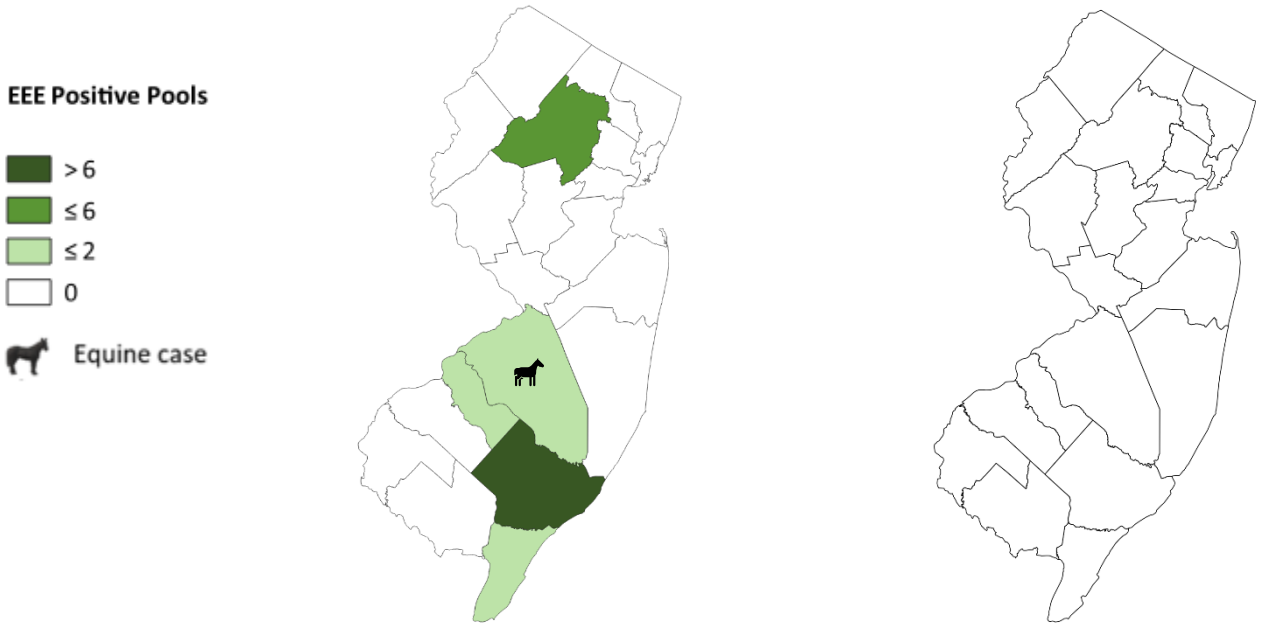
Minimum infection rate (MIR) is defined as the number of positive mosquito pools divided by the total number of mosquitoes tested x 1000

EEE Positive Pools by MMWR Week (2025-2026)



2025 EEE Activity

2026 EEE Activity



Jamestown Canyon Virus

- There have been no human cases of JCV reported in NJ in 2026. In 2025, there were two human cases of JCV from Middlesex and Burlington counties.
- Out of 375 mosquito pools from 18 counties tested for JCV, none have tested positive.
- In 2025, the first JCV positive pool was detected in week 29 in Sussex County.

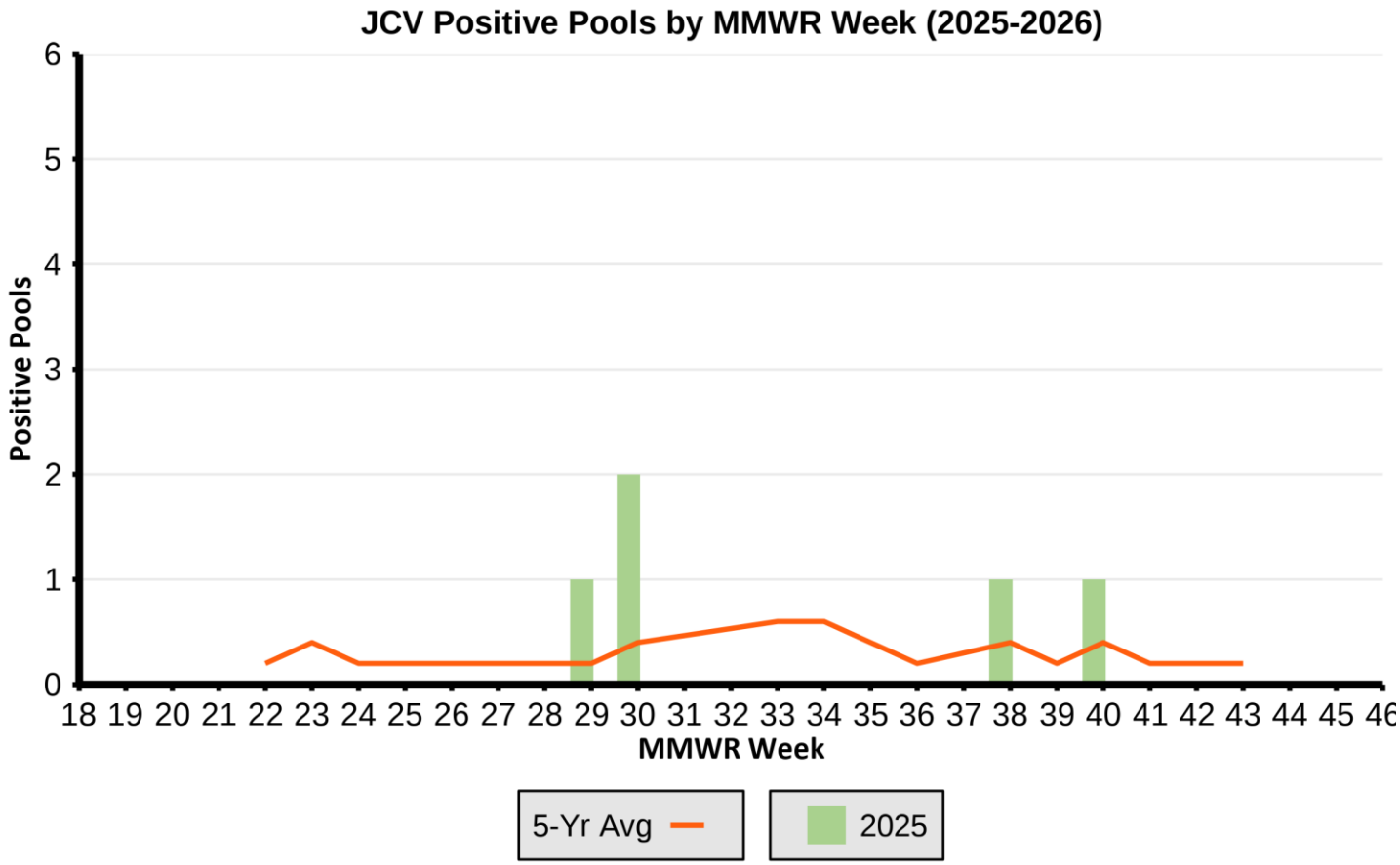
JCV Mosquito Pool Testing

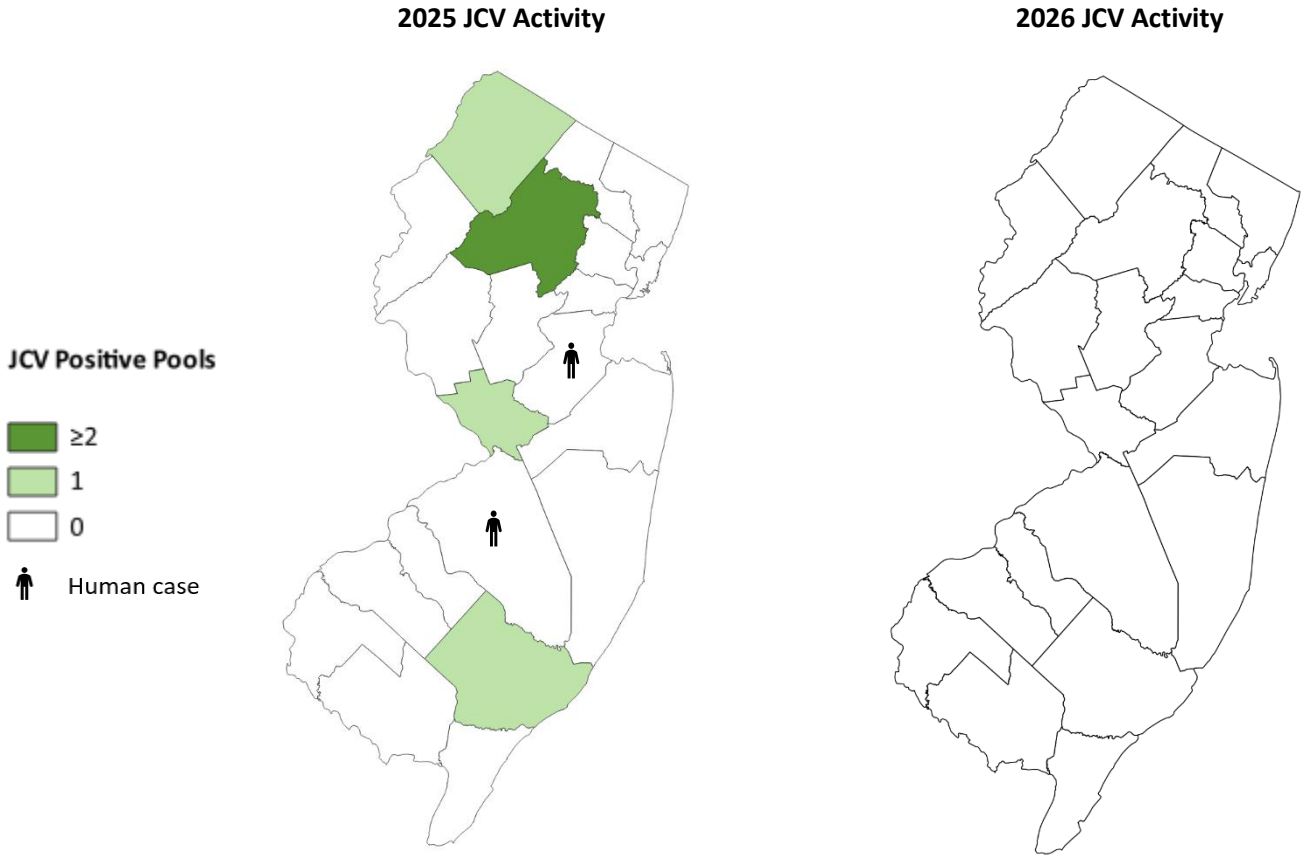
	WEEK 20 Positive Pools		Cumulative Pos. Total (WEEK 20)		# Pools Tested	Cumulative MIR
County	2026	2025	2026	2025	2026	2026[1]
Atlantic	-	-	-	-	33	0.00
Bergen	-	-	-	-	11	0.00
Burlington	-	-	-	-	1	0.00
Camden	-	-	-	-	20	0.00
Cape May	-	-	-	-	5	0.00
Cumberland	-	-	-	-	20	0.00
Essex	-	-	-	-	46	0.00
Gloucester	-	-	-	-	32	0.00
Hunterdon	-	-	-	-	30	0.00
Mercer	-	-	-	-	17	0.00
Middlesex	-	-	-	-	20	0.00
Monmouth	-	-	-	-	20	0.00
Morris	-	-	-	-	20	0.00
Ocean	-	-	-	-	22	0.00
Passaic	-	-	-	-	18	0.00
Salem	-	-	-	-	20	0.00
Sussex	-	-	-	-	20	0.00
Warren	-	-	-	-	20	0.00
Hudson	-	-	-	-	-	-
Somerset	-	-	-	-	-	-
Union	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**375**	**-**

Cumulative JCV MIR, 2026

Minimum infection rate (MIR) is defined as the number of positive mosquito pools divided by the total number of mosquitoes tested x 1000

WEEK 20: May 11 - 17, 2025; May 17 - 23, 2026


JCV Positive Pools by MMWR Week (2025-2026)
Positive Pools
0
1
2
3
4
5
6
18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46
MMWR Week
5-Yr Avg
2025


2025 JCV Activity
2026 JCV Activity
JCV Positive Pools
≥2
1
0
Human case

Other Mosquito-borne Diseases

- Mosquito pools in 18 counties have been tested for St. Louis encephalitis with no positive results.
- Mosquito pools in 1 county have been tested for La Crosse encephalitis with no positive results.

Cumulative 2026 Mosquito Pool Testing (Other Viruses[a])

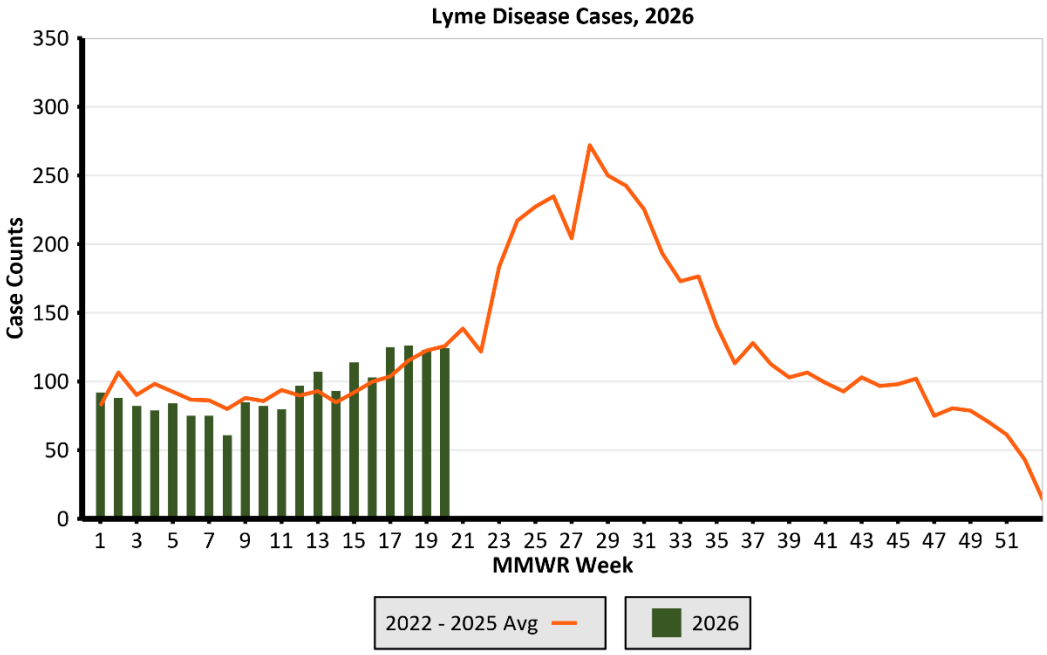
	SLE		LAC		CHIKV		DENV		ZIKV	
County	Pools	Pos	Pools	Pos	Pools	Pos	Pools	Pos	Pools	Pos
Atlantic	33									
Bergen	11									
Burlington	1									
Camden	20									
Cape May	5									
Cumberland	20									
Essex	46									
Gloucester	32		3							
Hudson										
Hunterdon	30									
Mercer	17									
Middlesex	20									
Monmouth	20									
Morris	20									
Ocean	22									
Passaic	18									
Salem	20									
Somerset										
Sussex	20									
Union										
Warren	20									
Total	**375**	**0**	**3**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**

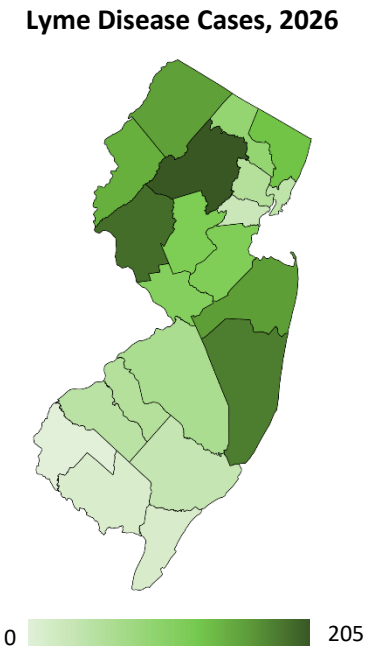
[a] St. Louis virus (SLE), La Crosse encephalitis (LAC), Chikungunya virus (CHIKV), Dengue virus (DENV), Zika Virus (ZIKV)
Numbers in white columns represent number of pools tested to date in 2026
Number in green shaded columns represent positive pools in 2026

Tickborne Disease Activity

Lyme Disease

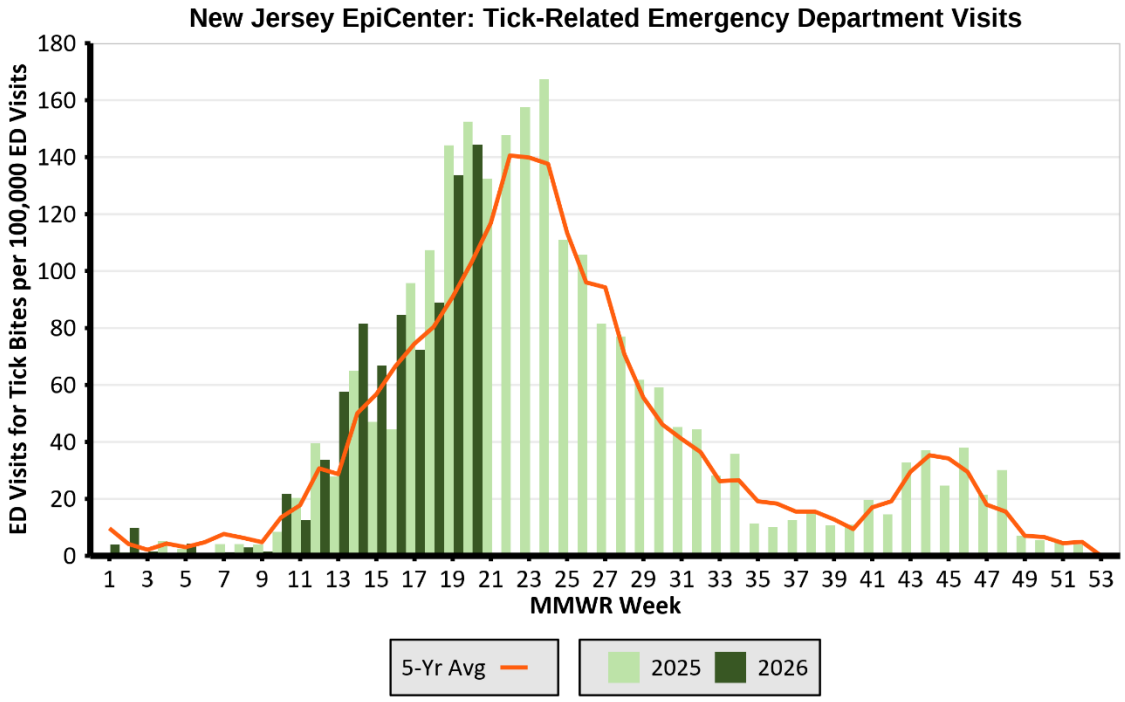
- There have been 1,921 cases of Lyme disease reported in NJ in 2026.
- The number of cases in week 20 is level compared to the previous week and is consistent with the four-year average.
- The largest number of Lyme disease cases has been reported in the northwestern part of the state (Hunterdon, and Morris counties) as well as in Ocean County.





Tick-related Emergency Department Visits

The chart below represents NJ residents seen at emergency departments with a tick-bite complaint or signs/symptoms associated with a reported tick bite relative to total ED visits. The number of tick-related emergency department visits increased in week 20 and remains higher than the 5-year average.



For more information

- NJDOH Communicable Disease Service: https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/topics/vectorborne.shtml
- New Jersey Vector-borne Disease Dashboard: https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/topics/vector_borne_disease_data_dashboard.shtml
- New Jersey Arboviral Activity Maps: http://bit.ly/JerseySurv
- NJDEP Office of Mosquito Control Coordination: https://www.nj.gov/dep/mosquito/
- NJDA Division of Animal Health: https://www.nj.gov/agriculture/divisions/ah/