

Board of Health
Minutes for the August 24, 2026 Meeting

Present: Kat Llamas, Hazel Goleman, Hanna Sherman, Daniel Sheff, Randy Crochier (FRCOG)

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 pm.

Approval of the Previous Minutes

Motion was made by Hazel and seconded by Hanna to approve the Minutes of July 27th as written. All present were in favor and the motion carried.

Agenda #1: Mail and Invoices

Sludge Transport Tickets, MHOA Conference Notice

Agenda #2: FRCOG reports

Software update, First human case of West Nile Virus, Mike Hugo presentation on September 10th

Agenda #3: Discussion and vote on signing MOU between the Conway BOH and MHOA re “tobacco sales to your compliance checks.”

Motion was made by Hazel and seconded by Daniel for Kat, as chair, to sign the MOU on behalf of the Conway BOH. All present were in favor and the motion carried.

Agenda #4: Discussion and possible vote on a request for an appeal of a FRCOG decision re upgrading a septic system on West Parsons Dr.

Kat will send a letter inviting the homeowner to the next meeting.

Agenda #5: Meetings and Trainings of the Board

No meetings attended

Agenda items #6: Health and Wellness Report

MDPH News and Announcements

Aug 17 - first EEE-positive mosquito, in Kingston, Plymouth County

The last human case in MA was in 2024.

This is slightly late in the season for human cases, so a large outbreak is thought to be unlikely.

EEE risk is still rated low across the state, other than in a few towns around Kingston where it is moderate.

Aug 20 - first human case of WNV in MA this year, in a man in his 90's in Middlesex county.

The first WNV-pos mosquito was detected on June 16, and so far this year there have been 180 WNV-positive mosquito samples in MA.

Aug 24, today - second human case of WNV in MA this year in a man in his 60s who was exposed in Middlesex County. As a result, the risk for WNV has been elevated to high in Boston, Brookline, Cambridge, Everett, Newton, Somerville, and Watertown.

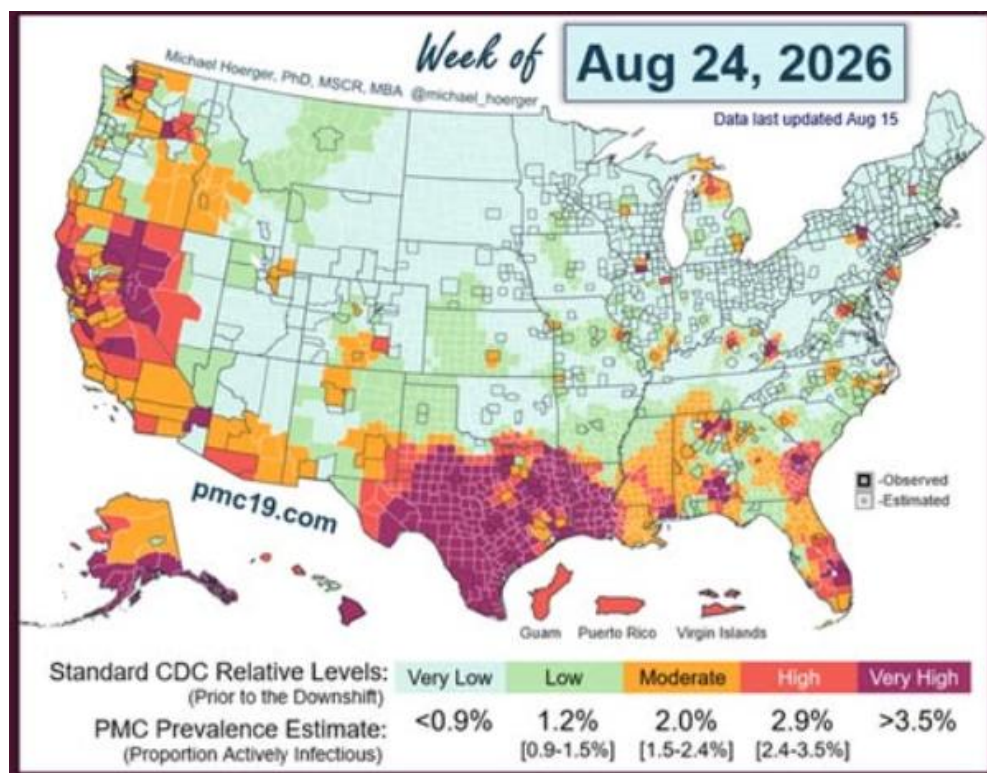
Overall this year, there have been 2 mosquitos positive for EEE and no human cases, while there have been 184 mosquitos positive for WNV and 2 human cases.

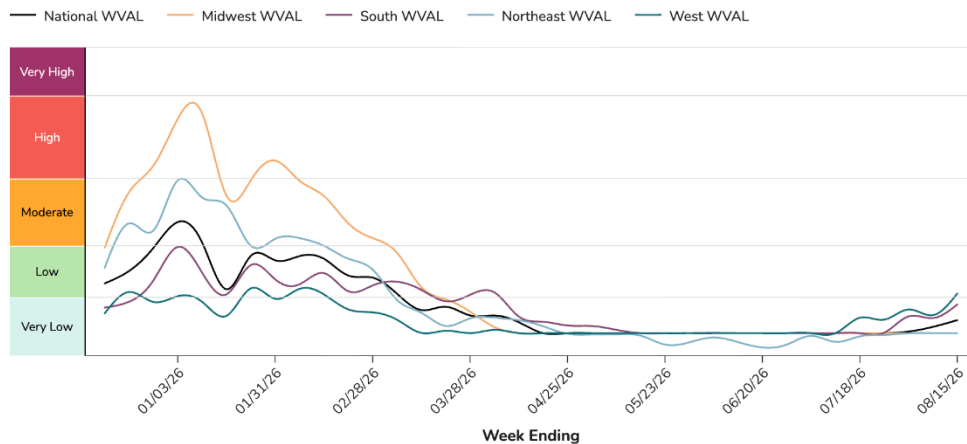
This is now peak season for WNV in mosquitos and the risk is increased across the state. DPH is asking everyone in Massachusetts to take the necessary precautions to prevent mosquito bites, such as using mosquito repellent when outdoors, covering up with clothing, moving indoors during dusk to dawn hours when mosquitoes are biting, reducing standing water and repairing screens as needed. Mosquitos will persist until the first hard frost.

Sandwich board announcement?

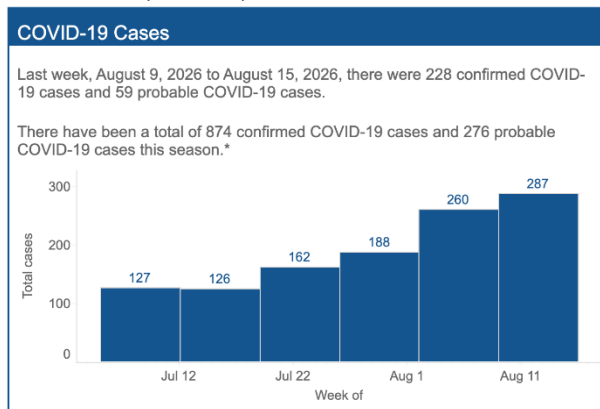
Viral illnesses

Nationally, Covid activity is low, though it is starting to rise, especially in the west and south:





Across MA, Covid, flu and RSV levels remain low, though Covid cases are starting to creep up:



Wastewater testing for Covid in our local treatment plants remains low.

Transmission is expected to peak about a week into September

Cyclosporiasis

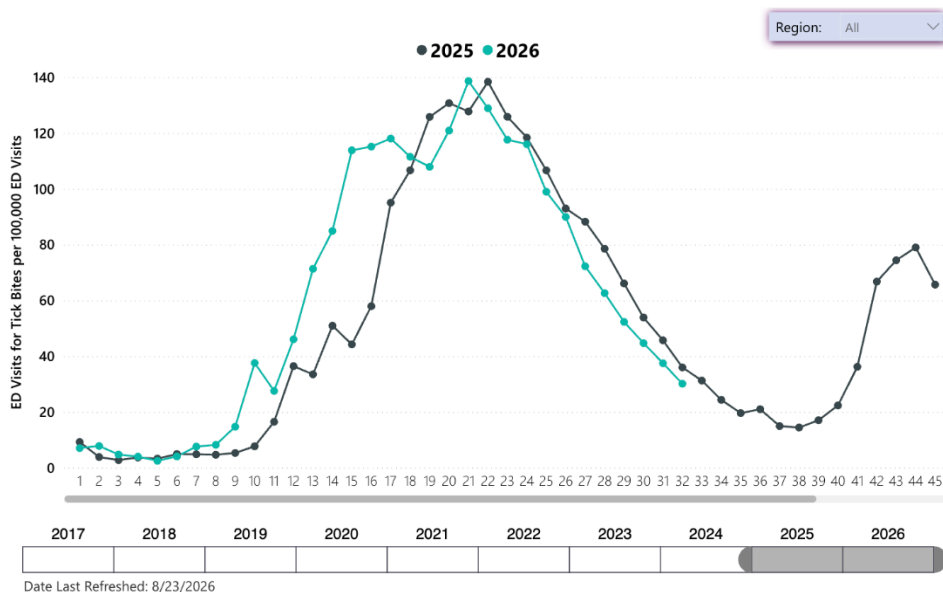
The outbreak is still active though it shows signs of slowing. This week, the number of newly reported cyclosporiasis cases slowed drastically, with cases increasing by 7.3% compared to the 19.6% growth reported last week. Most of these have been in Michigan and Ohio.

So far this year, the US has recorded just under 34,000 cases across at least 47 states, significantly more than the nearly 4,000 cases reported in 2025.

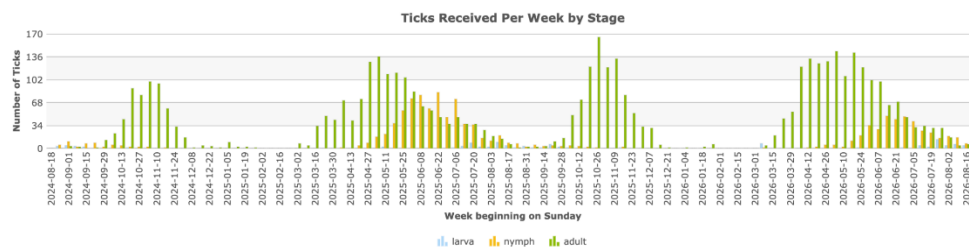
Tick-borne illnesses

Despite the increased number of ticks this year, cases nationally are running similar to prior years:

Emergency Department (ED) Visits for Tick Bites by Week, United States, 2024-2026



Current activity from the tick testing lab in Amherst:



Most recent data:

Historically, cases have risen during May and June, peaking in July, with a second peak in the fall. We are now entering the brief lull between summer and fall.

Measles

Measles continues to spread In the US, with 168 cases of measles reported this past week, a significant increase from the prior week.

The 2026 total of 2,961 cases still marks the highest number in any year since 1991.

Measles cases reported by week (US)

