

Monthly Report - June 2026

As June comes to a close, the 2026 mosquito season is well underway across the Chicagoland region. Clarke's cprogram continues to focus on protecting public health by minimizing vector-borne disease risk, particularly West Nile virus (WNV), while proactively managing mosquito populations during the peak summer season.

Spring and early summer weather have given mosquitoes plenty of opportunities to thrive. Regular rainfall across northern Illinois has left behind standing water in natural and man-made areas, creating ideal breeding sites. Combined with stretches of warm weather, those conditions have helped mosquito populations get established and remain active across the region. Unlike last year, when drought limited available habitat in many areas, moisture levels this season have supported consistent mosquito development.

That activity is already translating into virus detections. WNV-positive mosquitoes were first identified in mid-April, unusually early for the season, and by early July positives had been confirmed in 22 counties statewide, including much of the Chicagoland area. Even with fewer samples collected than at this point last year, the positivity rate is running slightly higher, a sign the virus is circulating efficiently in local mosquito populations. No human cases have been reported yet, but early detection combined with warm summer temperatures means risk could build quickly in the weeks ahead.

Clarke encourages residents to get ahead of the season by practicing the three "R's" (Reduce, Repel, Report) and to report stagnant water locations through the Clarke Portal at www.clarkeportal.com/hotline.

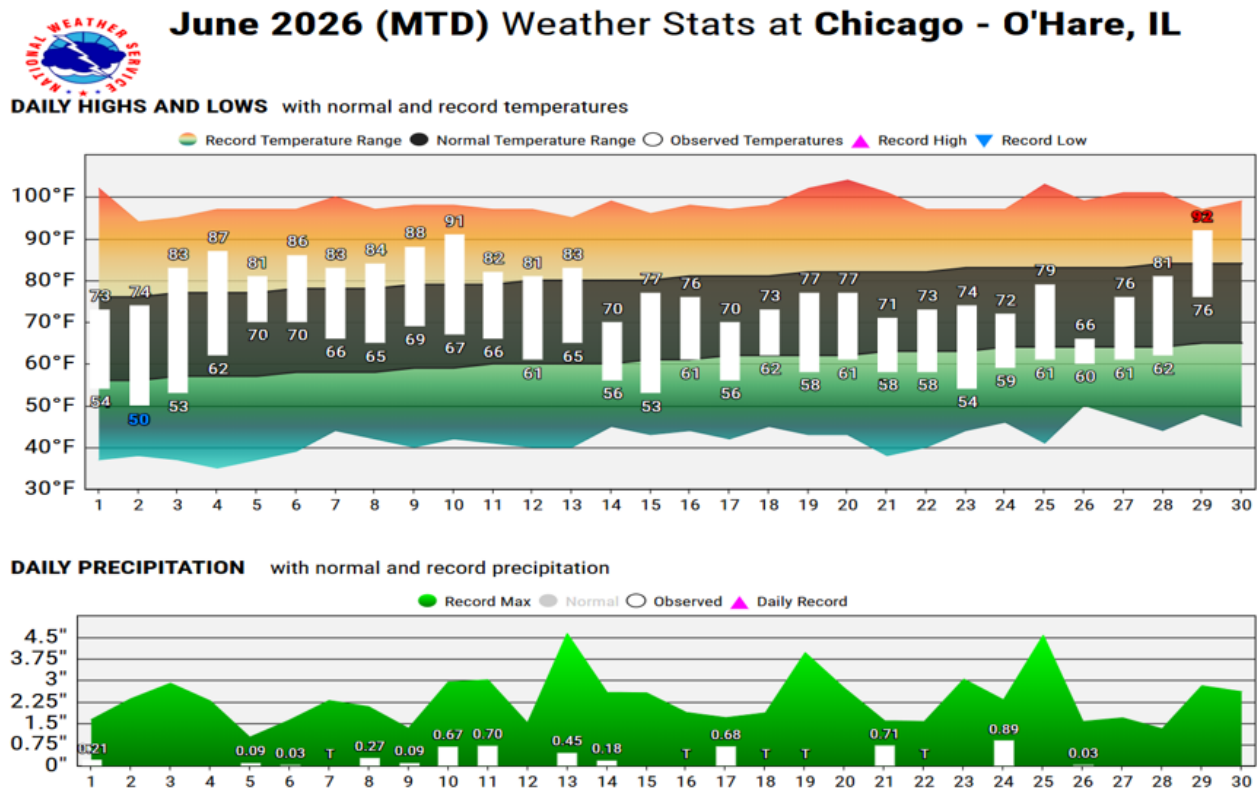
National Weather Reports

National Weather Service data shows June 2026 brought a mix of warm temperatures and periodic rainfall across the Chicagoland region. While monthly precipitation was closer to seasonal norms than the exceptionally wet conditions experienced earlier this spring,

several rainfall events throughout June helped maintain standing water and favorable mosquito breeding habitat. Temperatures varied throughout the month before ending on a notably warm note, with highs climbing into the 90s during the final days of June.

The contrast with last season remains significant. Much of the 2025 mosquito season was shaped by drought conditions that limited available breeding habitat across Illinois. This year, moisture levels have remained generally favorable throughout northern Illinois. As of late June, only 1.8% of the state was experiencing moderate drought conditions, while the Chicagoland region remained largely free of meaningful drought impacts.

Looking ahead, NOAA's seasonal outlook for July through September favors above-normal temperatures across Illinois, while precipitation is expected to remain near seasonal patterns. Combined with the moisture already present across the landscape, these warmer conditions are expected to support continued mosquito development and activity as the season moves into its peak summer months.





Drought & Dryness Categories

% of IL



D0 – Abnormally Dry

19.4%

D1 – Moderate Drought

1.8%

D2 – Severe Drought

0.0%

D3 – Extreme Drought

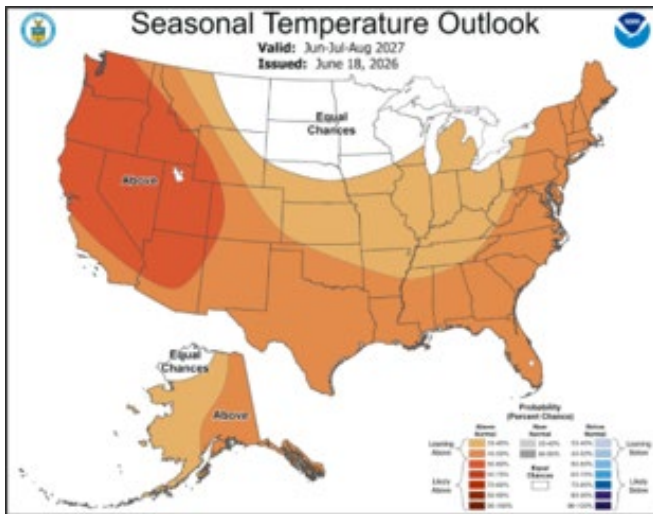
0.0%

D4 – Exceptional Drought

0.0%

Total Area in Drought (D1–D4)

1.8%



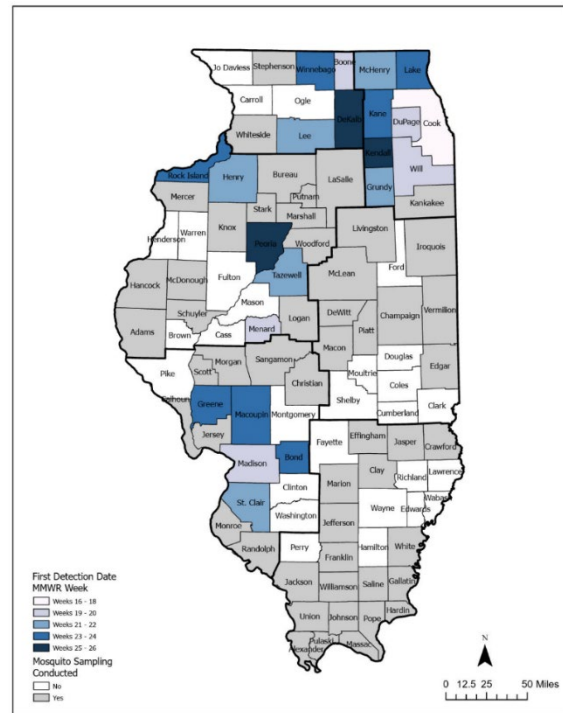
To Keep Up with the Latest Data, Use the Clarke Customer Portal

Culex pipiens, the primary vector of West Nile Virus, typically becomes more active as the season progresses and temperatures consistently warm. Above-normal temperatures forecast through the summer months suggest conditions will be favorable for *Culex pipiens* development — making early-season surveillance and larviciding efforts especially important for staying ahead of potential WNV transmission later in the season.

Clarke maintains and operates an online Customer Portal that program administrators can use to get up-to-date information on their mosquito management program.

Mosquito Borne Disease Update

West Nile Virus surveillance is well underway for the 2026 season in Illinois. As of July 2nd, 3,479 mosquito samples have been collected, yielding 118 WNV positives—a 3.4% positivity rate across 22 counties. First detections appeared as early as MMWR Week 16 (mid-April), with positive counties now spanning the Chicagoland area (Cook, DuPage, Lake, Kane, DeKalb, Boone, Winnebago, McHenry, Will, Kendall, Grundy, and Lee), northwestern and central Illinois (Rock Island, Henry, Peoria, Tazewell, and Menard), and the Metro East and southwest (Madison, St. Clair, Macoupin, Greene, and Bond).



No human cases have been reported.

At the same point in 2025, 6,159 samples had been collected with 198 positives across 25 counties—a 3.2% positivity rate. Sample volume is running well below last year's pace—roughly 40% fewer collected so far—yet the positivity rate is marginally higher, suggesting WNV is circulating efficiently in early-season mosquito populations even where trapping effort has been lighter. The 2025 season ultimately produced 150 human cases statewide.

Since its emergence in 1999, West Nile Virus has resulted in 58,682 human cases across the United States, including over 2,700 fatalities. Given its established presence in bird and mosquito populations throughout Illinois, WNV remains a significant annual public health concern. A county is considered WNV-positive when any bird, mosquito, human, horse, or other mammal tests positive, and Clarke will report on surveillance results as the season progresses.

	Number Collected in all Counties	# WNV Positives	% WNV Positives
2026 Data as of July 2			
2026 Mosquito Surveillance Samples	3,479	118	3.4%
2026 WNV Positive Counties	22		
2026 Human Cases as of July 2	0		
2025 Historical Data as of July 2 for Comparison			
2025 Mosquito Surveillance Samples	6,159	198	3.2%
2025 WNV Positive Counties	25		
2025 Total Human Cases	150		

Operations Update

Clarke will continue monitoring mosquito activity across the service area and adjust control efforts as conditions change. Larviciding will remain focused on standing-water habitats where mosquitoes are developing, helping reduce populations before they emerge as flying adults. These treatments target areas such as catch basins, ditches, retention areas, and other water-holding sites identified through field inspections and resident reports. Adulticiding may be used when surveillance data, nuisance thresholds, or vector activity indicate a need for additional control, particularly when adult mosquito populations are elevated or disease risk is increasing. Together, these efforts help manage both nuisance mosquitoes and vector species that can pose a public health concern.

IDPH and Clarke urge the public to continue to Fight the Bite by practicing the three "R's" – reduce, repel, and report:

- **REDUCE** - Ensure doors and windows have tight-fitting screens. Repair or replace screens with tears or openings, and keep doors and windows shut when possible. Eliminate or refresh weekly all sources of standing water where mosquitoes breed, including bird baths, ponds, flowerpots, wading pools, old tires, and any other containers.
- **REPEL** - When outdoors, wear shoes and socks, long pants, and a light-colored, long-sleeved shirt. Apply an EPA-registered insect repellent containing DEET, picaridin, oil

of lemon eucalyptus, IR 3535, para-menthane-diol (PMD), or 2-undecanone according to label instructions. Consult a physician before using repellents on infants.

- **REPORT** - Report locations where water sits stagnant for more than a week, such as roadside ditches, flooded yards, and similar mosquito-producing sites. Residents can report these through the Clarke Portal at www.clarkeportal.com/hotline.

