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| Mosquito and mosquito-borne disease weekly report 2022/2023 |
| Report number: 9Reporting week: 25/12/22 - 31/12/22Report issued date: 03/01/23 |
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# Summary

This report contains a range of indicators relating to mosquito-borne diseases actively monitored by the Department of Health (the department). The department conducts mosquito surveillance throughout the Victorian mosquito breeding season, which in inland areas typically occurs from early November through to late April the following year, with coastal areas typically starting earlier and ending later. For reporting purposes, the 2022/2023 season is defined as commencing from 1 July 2022.

The indicators used in this report are sourced from the following surveillance systems:

* Human surveillance (notified confirmed and probable cases and/or modelled predictions of vector-borne disease)
* Mosquito surveillance (adult mosquitoes)

The report will be issued weekly. Some indicators may not be updated for every report. The report contains information collected in the week prior. There is a time delay from mosquito field collection to reporting. This is due to the cumulative time between trap collection, specimen transit time to Melbourne, and from individual mosquito species identification to polymerase chain reaction (PCR) testing within the laboratory.

# Human mosquito-borne diseases notifications

 In 2022 there are five mosquito-borne viruses which have been identified to pose public health risk in Victoria with the potential for local transmission. These are Japanese encephalitis virus (JEV), Murray Valley Encephalitis virus (MVEV), Ross River virus (RRV) and Barmah Forest virus (BFV), West Nile virus Kunjin strain (WNV/kun) (otherwise known as Kunjin virus). Cases of infection with these viruses are notified to the department by pathology services and in some cases medical practitioners under the Victorian Public Health and Wellbeing Regulations 2019. The laboratory diagnosis of mosquito-borne diseases is complex, and often requires follow up testing at several weeks interval before the confirmed or probable case definition is met.

RRV and BFV are endemic to parts of Victoria, and cases of infection with these viruses are expected every summer. The department closely monitors case numbers and geographical distribution to identify areas of increased risk.

## Notifications

| **Mosquito-borne disease notification from previous week** |
| --- |
| **CONDITION** | **Confirmed** | **Probable** | **YTD a** |
| Japanese encephalitis virus infection | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Ross River virus infection | 0 | 0 | 36 |
| Barmah Forest virus infection | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Kunjin virus infection | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Murray Valley encephalitis virus infection | 0 | 0 | 0 |

**Note:** a YTD: Year to date total cases (confirmed/probable) reported since 1/7/2022.

## Japanese encephalitis virus

There was one case of JE confirmed last week, in a person who resides in Campaspe Shire LGA. Initial testing and notification to the department occurred in November 2022 and the case is included in the November total, in Figure 1.

### JE epidemic curve

 

Figure 1 Japanese encephalitis virus epidemic curve

## Ross River virus

There were no cases of RRV notified in the last week.

### RRV epidemic curve



Figure 2 Ross River virus epidemic curve

# Mosquito surveillance

Approximately 15 councils in **high-risk** areas for mosquito-borne diseases currently participate in the state-wide mosquito surveillance program. Mosquitoes trapped as part of this program are submitted to the Agriculture Victoria Research laboratory at the Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions (DJPR) for mosquito species identification, counting and viral testing. These data are reported to the department for monitoring and analysis.

## Mosquito abundance

This section details the abundance of mosquitoes in Victoria by LGA. The count average for all trapping sites within the previous week is reported by LGA.

**Table 1:** Average number of mosquitoes per trap site per week by LGA, 2022-2023

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| LGA by Week |  |  | **2022** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  **Aug** |  **Sep** | **Oct** |  | **Nov** |  | **Dec** |  |  |  |
| **w32** | **w33** | **w34** | **w35** | **w36** | **w37** | **w38** | **w39** | **w40** | **w41** | **w42** | **w43** | **w44** | **w45** | **w46** | **w47** | **w48** | **w49** | **w50** | **w51** | **w52\*** |
| **Greater Shepparton** |  |  |  | 8 |  | 8 |  | 26 |  | 140 | 84 | 200 | 1262 | 2068 | 653 | 1872 | 1604 | 478 | 225 | 170 |  |
| **Horsham** |  | 1 |  | 6 | 2 | 2 |  | 11 | 18 | 136 | 138 | 176 | 900 | 1464 | 1831 | 1701 | 930 | 1063 | 179 | 294 |  |
| **Moira** |  |  |  |  |  | 3 |  |  | 1 | 2 |  | 613 |  | 1248 | 59 |  | 586 |  | 50 | 113 |  |
| **Mildura** | 6 |  | 4 |  | 18 | 21 | 56 | 125 | 120 | 375 | 277 | 179 | 461 | 2087 |  | 998 | 624 | 1454 | 845 | 4833 | 1000 |
| **Greater Bendigo** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 9 |  |  | 259 | 262 | 133 | 1426 | 1956 | 1324 |  | 2296 | 285 | 1519 |  |
| **Greater Geelong** | 19 |  |  |  |  |  | 203 |  | 86 |  |  |  |  | 463 |  | 680 | 972 |  |  | 425 |  |
| **Campaspe** |  |  | 1 |  | 2 |  |  |  |  | 94 |  | 553 |  | 2319 | 839 | 3768 | 621 | 6019 | 35 | 1214 |  |
| **Wodonga** |  |  | 2 |  |  |  |  |  | 48 | 53 | 147 |  | 516 | 1242 | 3593 |  | 1995 | 439 | 176 | 658 |  |
| **East Gippsland** |  |  |  |  | 29 | 19 |  |  | 26 | 108 |  |  |  | 31 | 245 | 277 | 377 | 427 | 700 |  |  |
| **Frankston** |  |  |  |  | 4 |  |  | 26 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Swan Hill** |  |  |  |  |  |  | 9 | 17 | 126 | 212 | 268 | 715 | 884 | 3327 | 1043 | 111 | 1598 | 575 | 514 | 1958 |  |
| **Gannawarra** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 477 | 1228 | 493 |  | 1291 | 2189 |  | 1081 | 160 |  | 659 |  |
| **Wellington** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 123 |  |  | 756 | 728 |  |  | 1220 | 207 |  |
| **Loddon** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 11929 | 8371 | 3488 | 670 | 1591 | 2440 | 535 |  |  |
| **Surf Coast** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 34 |  | 1586 |  | 375 |  | 129 |  |
| **Yarra City** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 4192 | 3450 | 5938 |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Wangaratta** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 160 | 100 | 75 |
| **Indigo** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 194 | 373 |  |
|  |   |   |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Key** | Low (<50) | Moderate (50-99) | High (100-999) | Very high (1,000-9,999) | Extreme (10,000+) |

**\***Mosquito counting and speciation was limited over the holiday period.

## Mosquito species of concern

In inland areas *Culex annulirostris* is considered the major species of concern for transmission of RRV, BFV, WNV/Kunjin, and MVEV. It is also believed to be a major vector for JEV.

*Aedes camptorhynchus* is the major vector of RRV and BFV in coastal saltwater habitats.

A sample of trapped mosquitoes are examined to estimate the proportion of different species. The availability and accuracy of this representative sample is influenced by the number of mosquitoes captured, the condition of the mosquitoes at time of examination, and other factors.

Mosquito speciation was limited over the last week, due to public holidays.

## Mosquito viral detections

Captured mosquitoes are submitted for PCR testing to detect RRV, BFV, MVEV, JEV and WNV/Kunjin.

This section lists all viral detections in trapped mosquitoes for the 2022/2023 season.

**Table 2:** Viral detections in trapped mosquitoes

| **Trap collection date** | **Notification date** | **LGA** | **Virus detected** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 29/11/2022 | 6/12/2022 | Loddon | BFV |
| 29/11/2022 | 6/12/2022 | Campaspe | BFV |
| 30/11/2022 | 6/12/2022 | Horsham | RRV |
| 6/12/2022 | 9/12/2022 | Gannawarra | BFV |
| 6/12/2022 | 12/12/2022 | Mildura | BFV |
| 7/12/2022 | 16/12/2022 | Campaspe | BFV |
| 7/12/2022 | 16/12/2022 | Campaspe | BFV |
| 20/12/2022 | 22/12/2022 | Greater Bendigo | RRV |
| 20/12/2022 | 22/12/2022 | Campaspe | RRV |
| 20/12/2022 | 22/12/2022 | Mildura | RRV |
| 20/12/2022 | 22/12/2022 | Mildura | BFV |
| 20/12/2022 | 29/12/2022 | Swan Hill | BFV |
| 20/12/2022 | 29/12/2022 | Swan Hill | BFV |
| 21/12/2022 | 29/12/2022 | Campaspe | RRV |

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