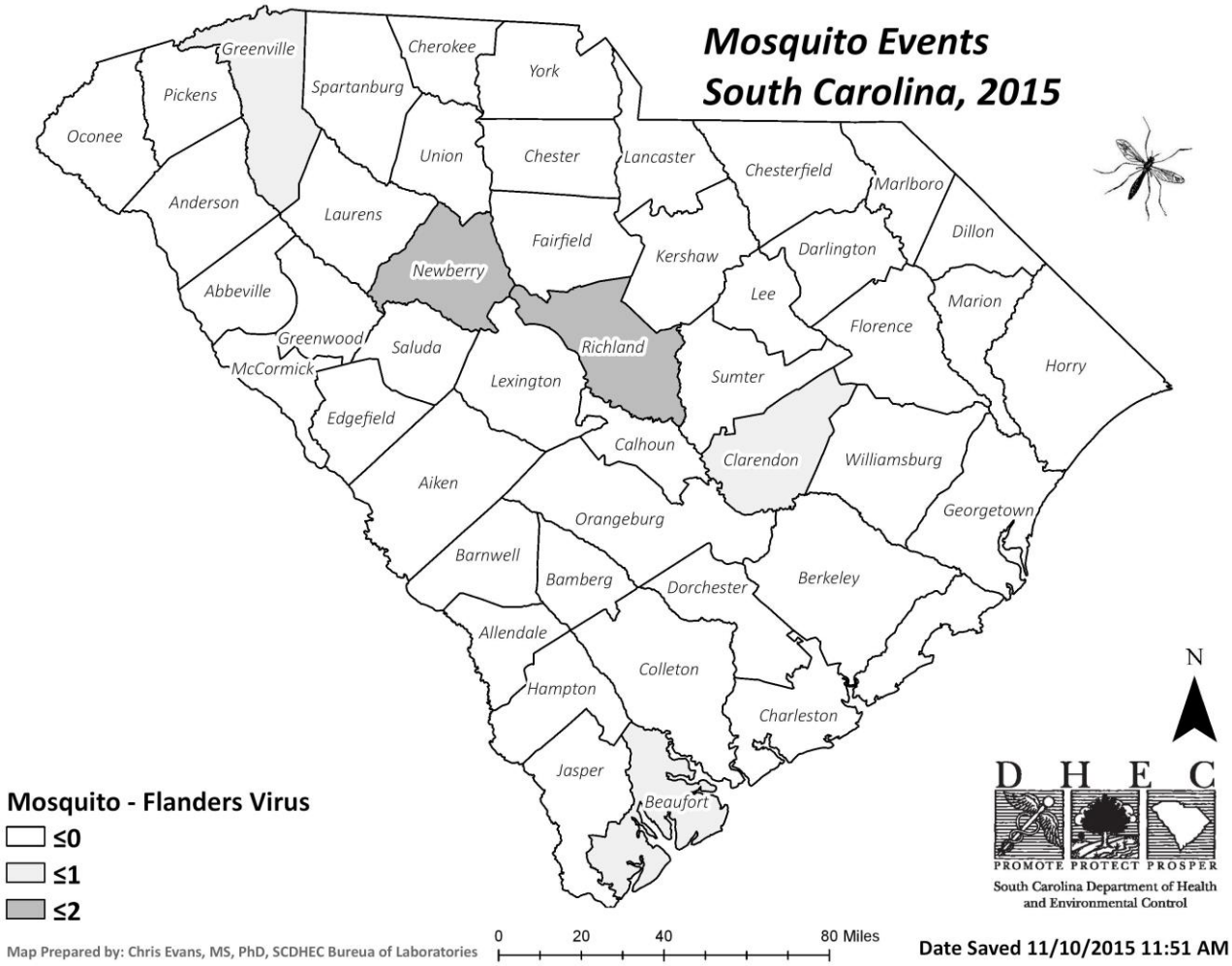
SC DHEC Bureau of Laboratories
2015 Flanders Virus Cases

Updated Tuesday, November 10, 2015

Flanders virus was discovered in 1961 in the town of Flanders on Long Island, New York. The virus is in the virus family Rhabdoviridae, and it is widely distributed in Canada, the United States, and Mexico. Flanders virus does not cause disease.

The virus is frequently found in birds, such as Red-winged blackbirds, House sparrows, and starlings. It is also found in bird-feeding mosquitoes, such as the black-tailed mosquito (*Culiseta melanura*) and the northern and southern house mosquitoes (*Culex pipiens* and *Culex quinquefasciatus*, respectively). Presence of the virus in an area serves as a sentinel or warning for West Nile virus and as a trigger for public health control and prevention interventions targeting West Nile virus.

A "mosquito pool" is defined as a collection of mosquitoes (usually 1 to 50 specimens) that were pooled together for testing purposes and consists of the same mosquito species that were collected from the same location on the same date.