

February 12, 2026  
2:00 PM CST

# Weekend Weather Briefing

2:00 PM

Thursday, February 12, 2026

Produced by: NWS New Orleans/Baton Rouge



National Oceanic and  
Atmospheric Administration  
U.S. Department of Commerce

National Weather Service  
New Orleans/Baton Rouge



# Overview: Main Threats

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- Greatest concern will be potential for thunderstorms and gusty winds **Saturday Evening through Sunday morning** possibly affecting some parade activities and other outdoor events
- Showers/storms will come in two main rounds:
  - Round One: Scattered showers and a few storms Saturday afternoon/evening.  
**Note: The trend has been for less activity during this period**
  - Round Two: A squall line of stronger storms Saturday night into Sunday morning  
**Note: The trend has been slightly slower for the line**
- Potential for gusty winds (>30 mph), mainly south of the tidal lakes even outside of thunderstorms





# Weekend Overview

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What to watch next 24-36 hours:

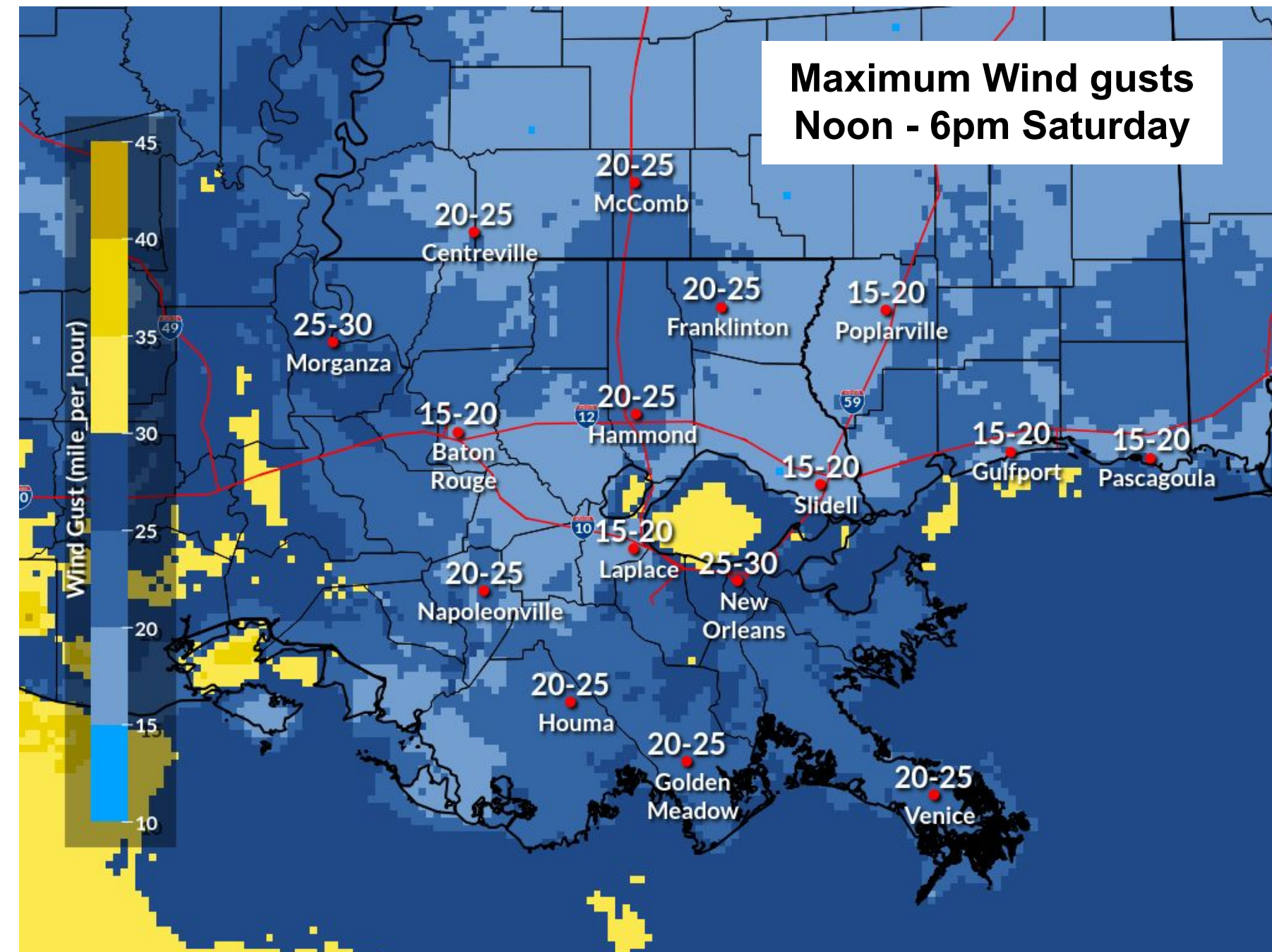
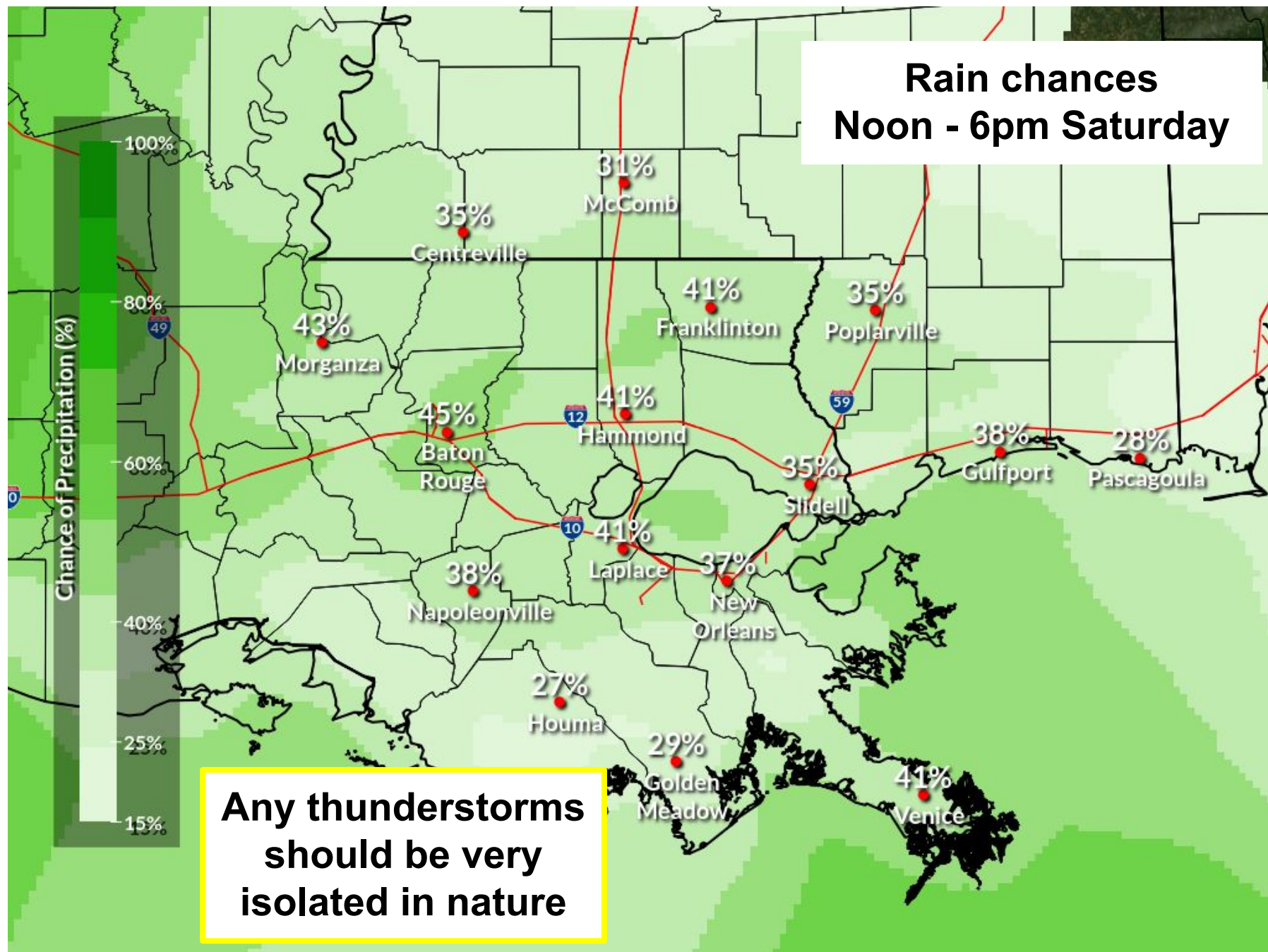
- Specific timing will continue to be refined as more of the “thunderstorm” models start to include the Saturday/Sunday time frame.
- Potential for the front to slow down causing storms to linger a little longer into Sunday for some areas, especially east of I-55.
- Wind forecasts - highly dependent on how strong the overall storm system becomes. Note that the current wind and wind gust forecast is on the higher end of the model guidance.



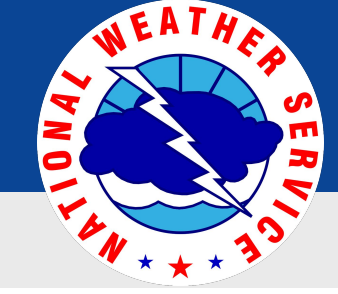


# Saturday Afternoon

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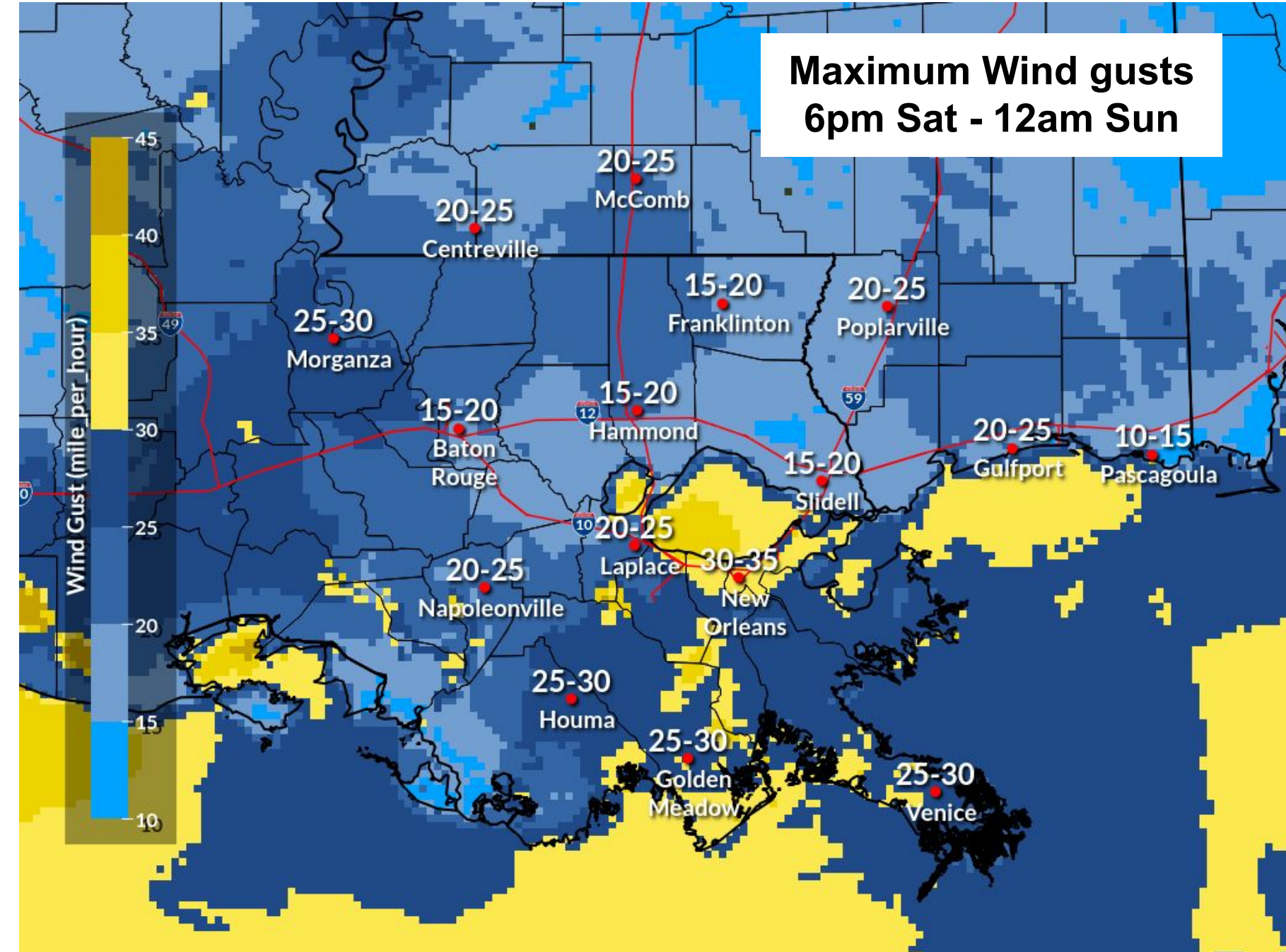
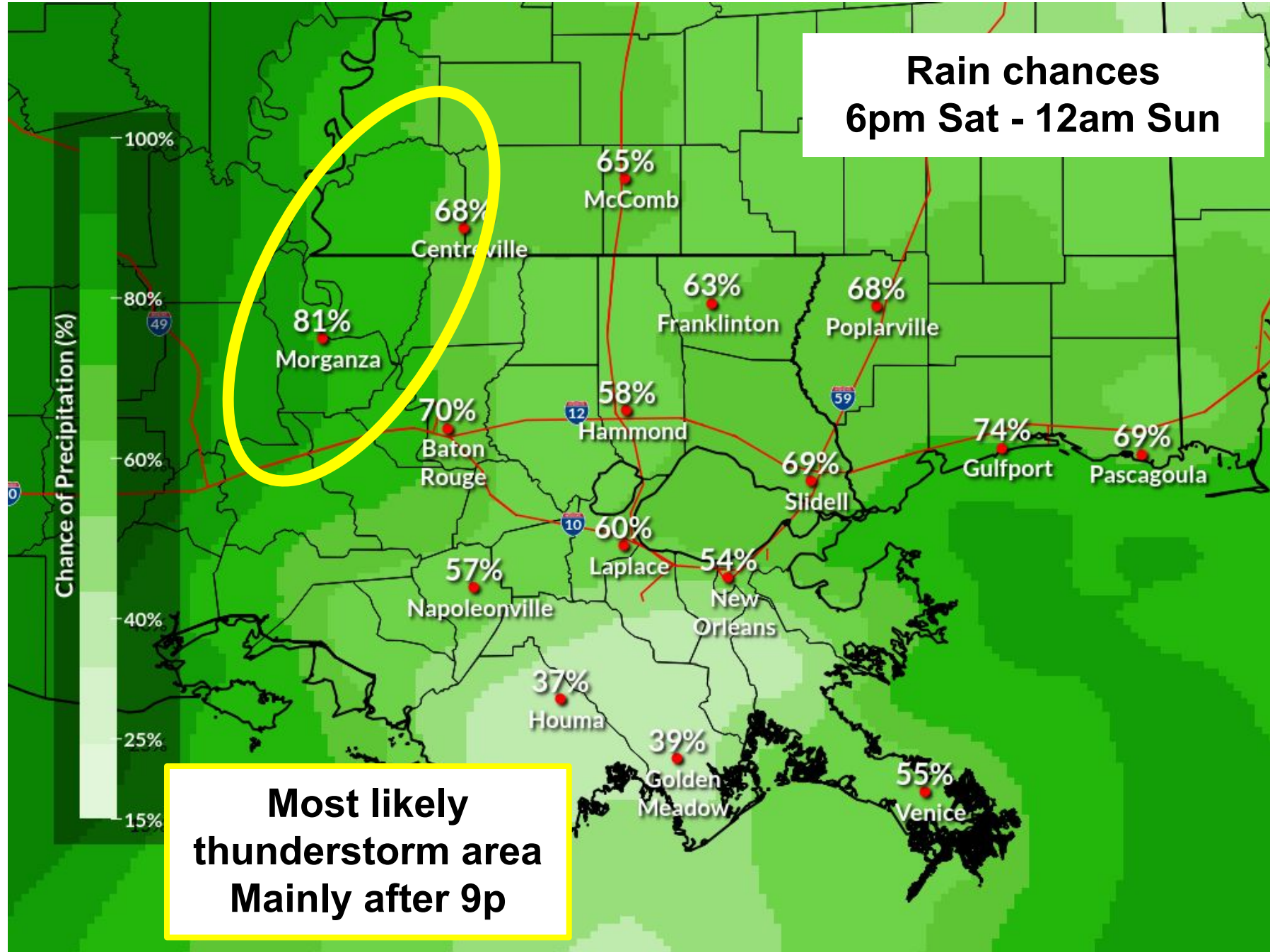


Timing will continue to be narrowed down tomorrow, but best chances look to be **mainly after 3p**  
 Primarily looking at scattered showers, with low (<15%) chance of thunderstorms



# Saturday Evening

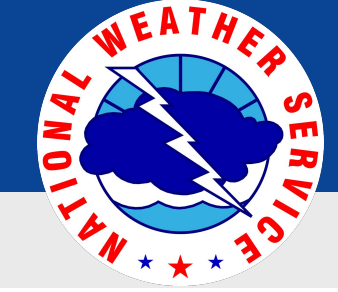
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Squall line could be moving into northwestern areas toward the end of this window

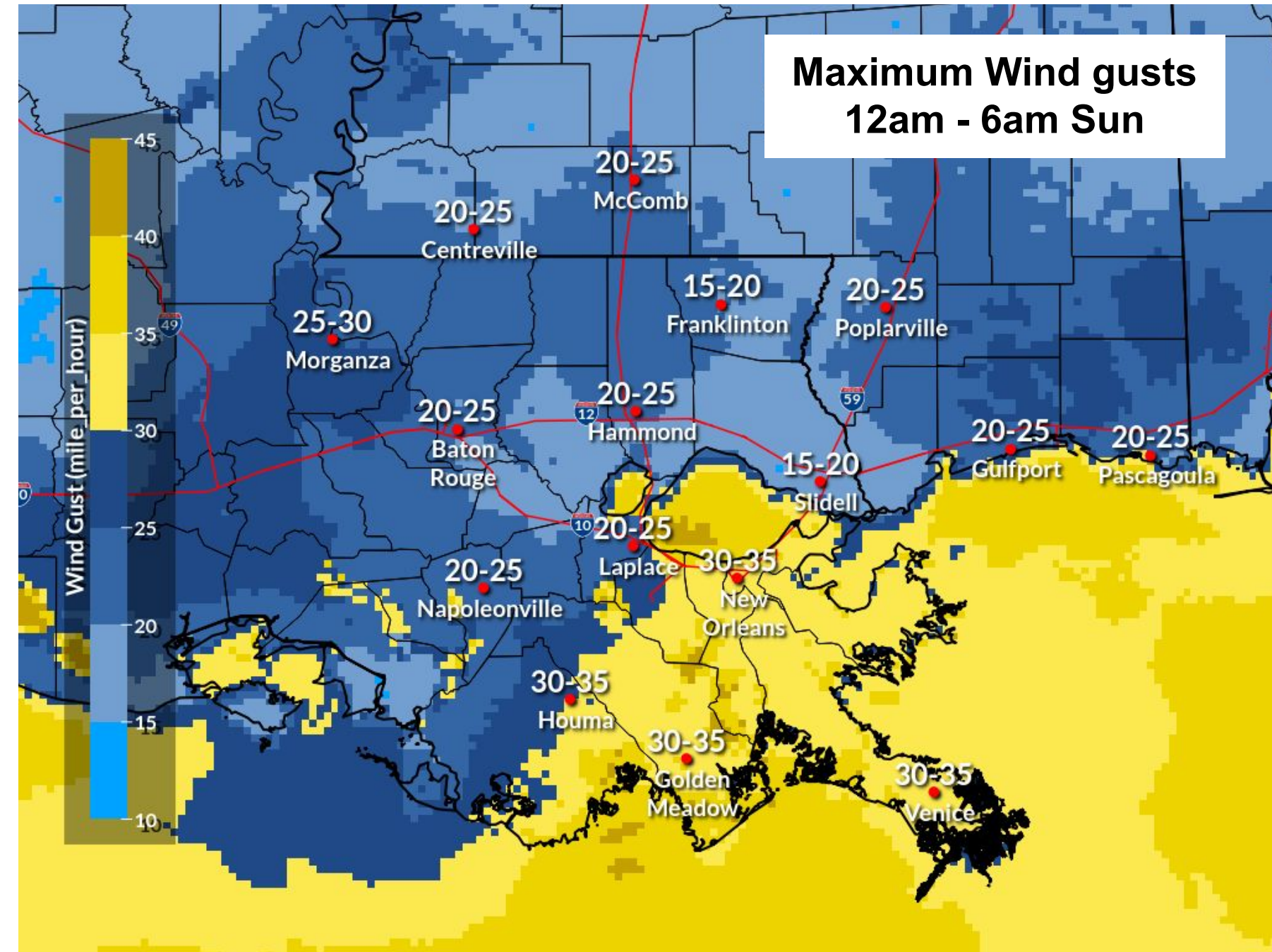
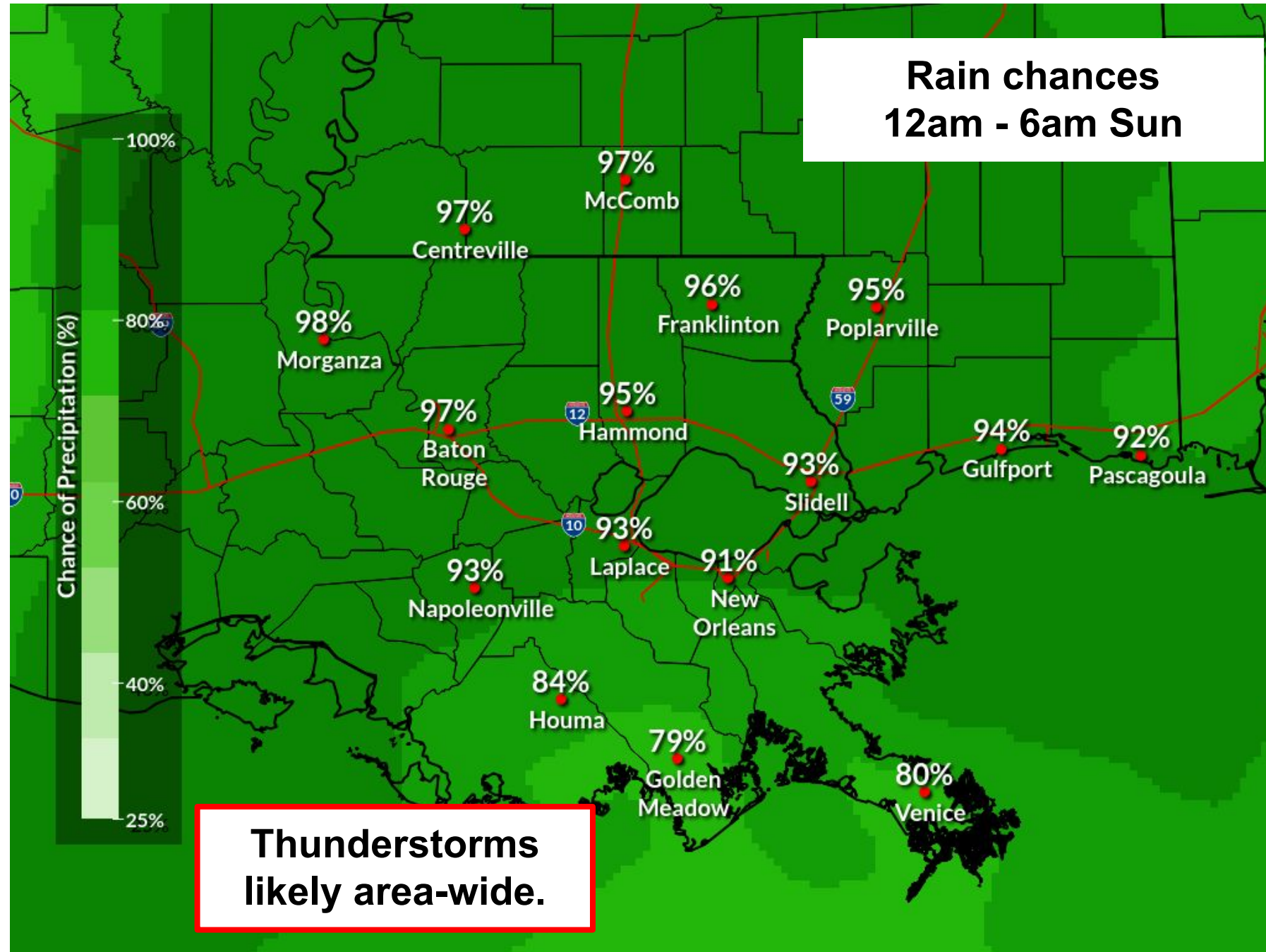
Thunderstorms most likely west of I-55, mainly after 9p, with only low (<15%) threat eastern areas

Wind gusts start to strengthen across areas south of the tidal lakes, a few gusts over 30 mph possible



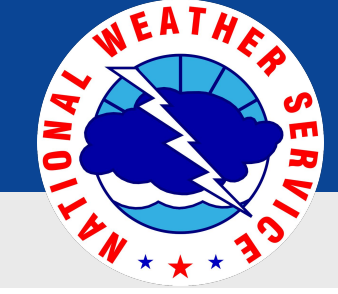
# Saturday Night

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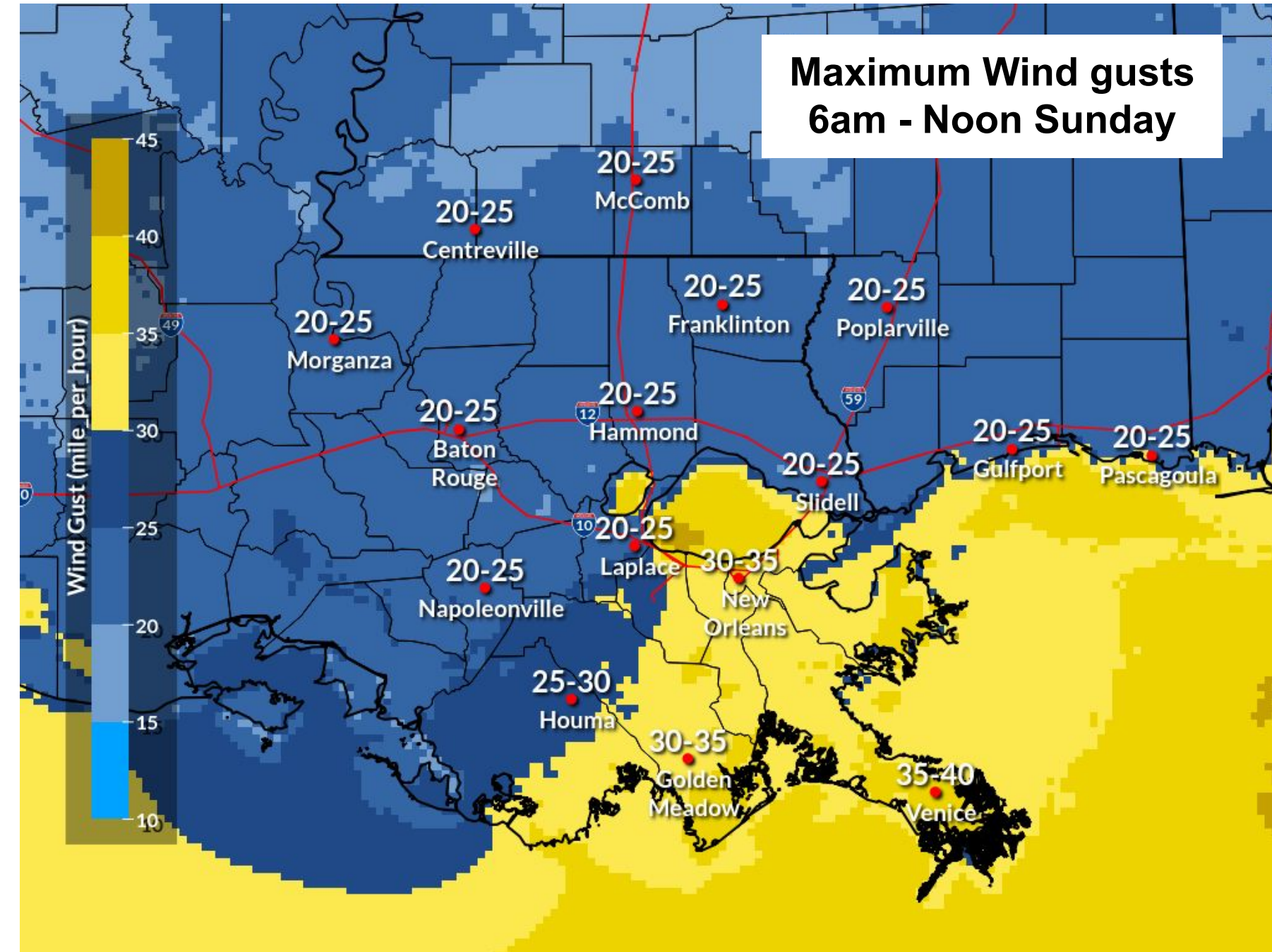
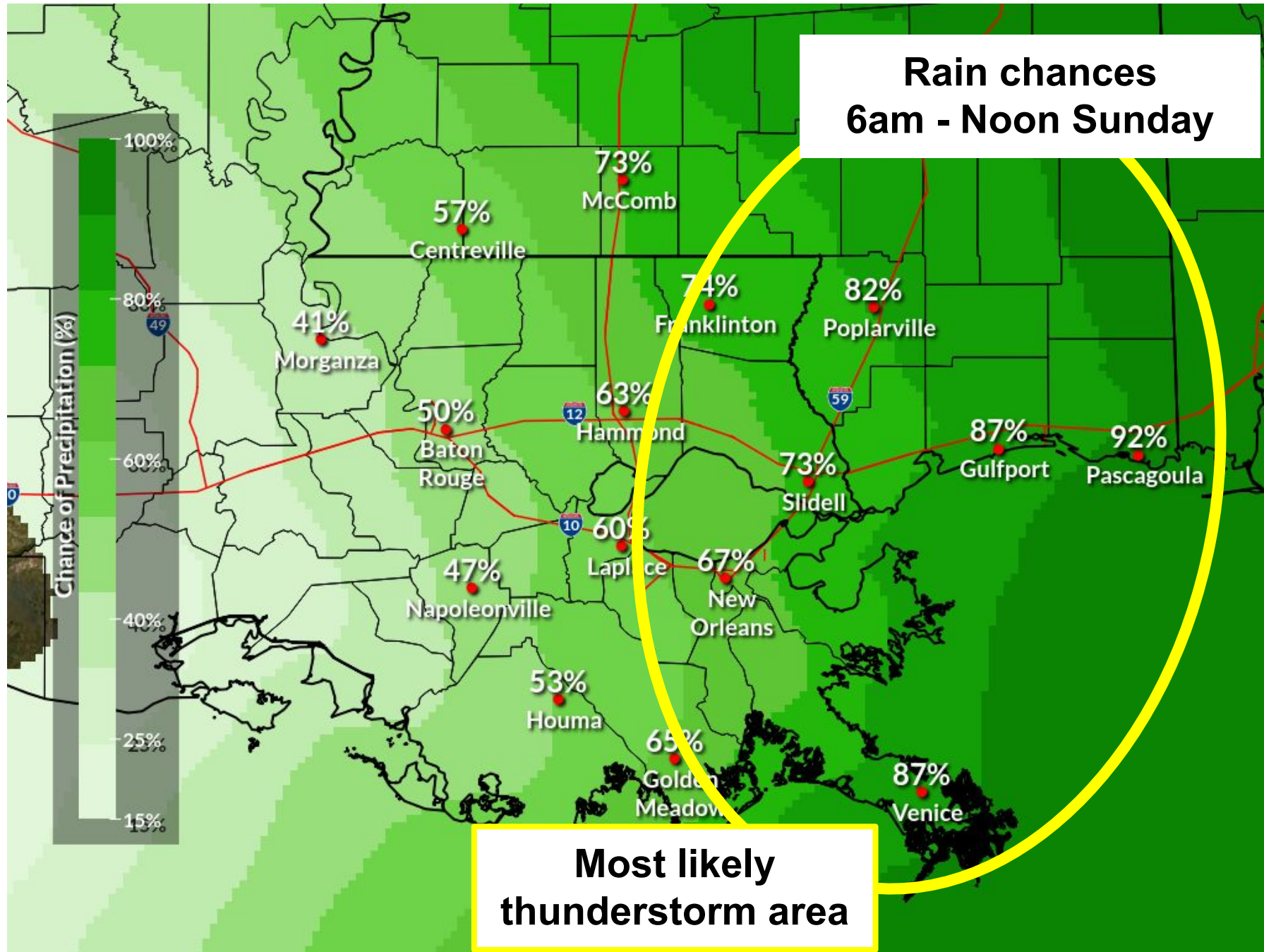
Squall line progresses eastward through most of the area overnight

A few strong/severe storms within the line could become strong to severe. Current threat level: 1 of 5 with strong to damaging wind gusts as the main threat



# Sunday Morning

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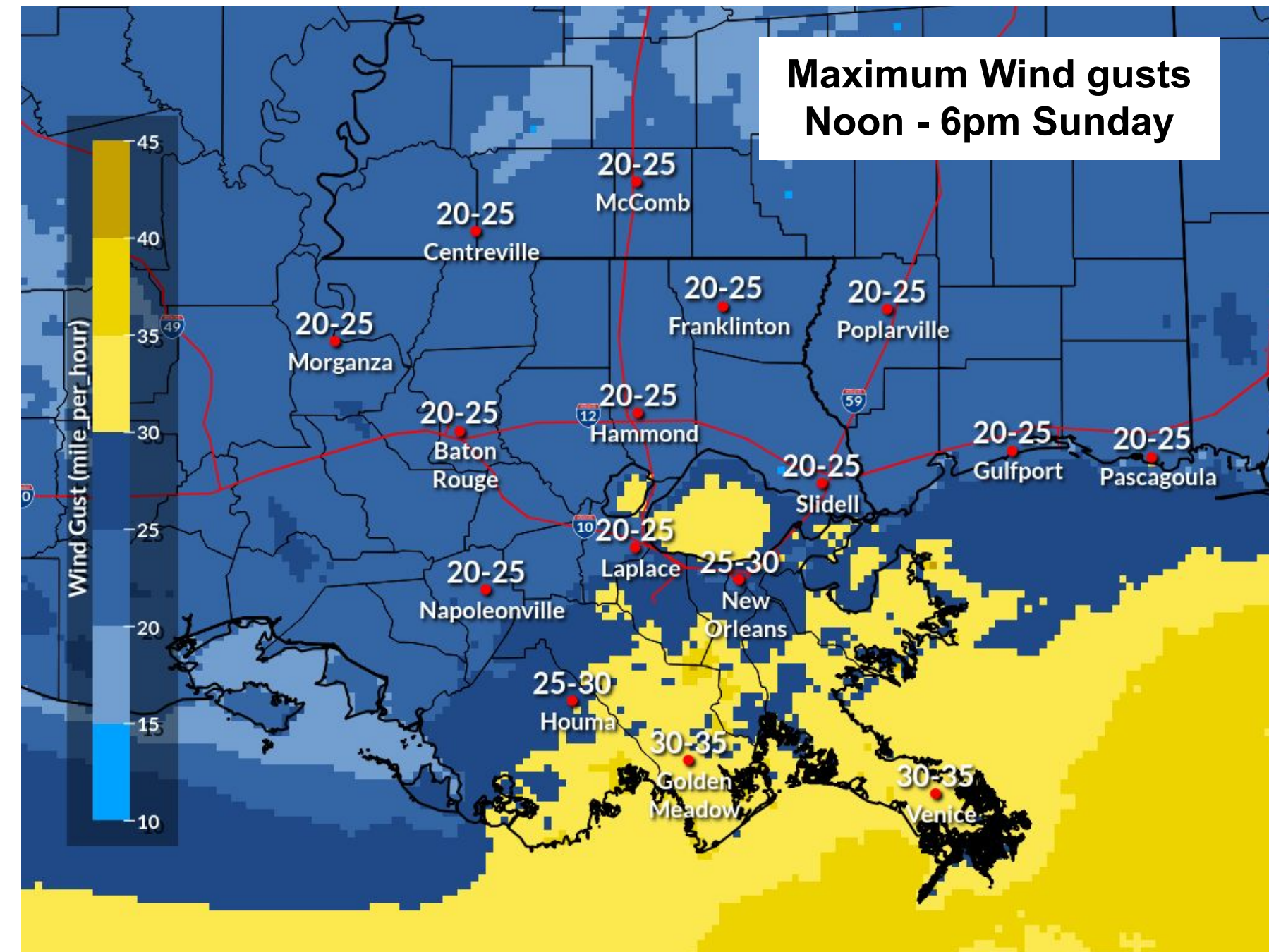
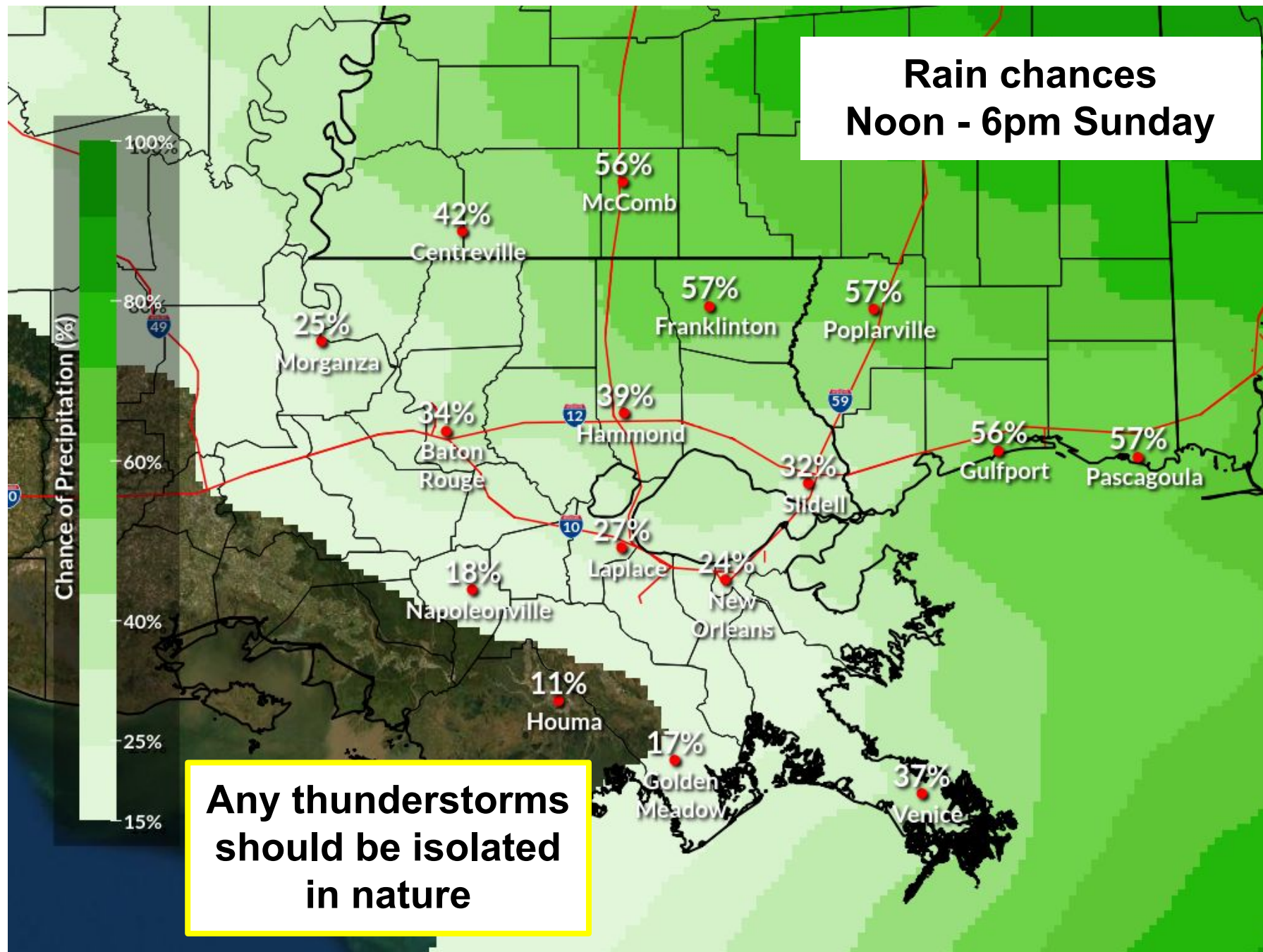
Squall line will continue moving east, should be just east of the I-55 corridor around daybreak

Will need to monitor potential for front to slow down some - this would result in thunderstorms lingering farther west



# Sunday Afternoon

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Squall should be exiting MS coast. Showers will linger into the afternoon, but any lingering thunderstorms should be isolated in nature (20% chance or less all areas)

Will need to monitor potential for front to slow down some, causing storms to linger farther west



# Key Takeaways

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- Saturday
  - Trends have been generally “good” for Saturday evening parades with a downward trend in thunderstorm/lightning probabilities.
  - Should mainly be passing light to moderate showers. Rain totals are currently forecast to be less than 0.25” before midnight area-wide, with less than 0.1” for most places east of I-55.
  - Still need to keep an eye on the wind forecast, mainly south of the tidal lakes.
- Sunday
  - Trends have been “less good” for Sunday morning during parade lineup times - especially for areas east of I-55 where the main.
  - Need to continue monitoring timing trend as the line could slow further.
  - Gusty winds should ease a bit by afternoon for areas south of the tidal lakes.






# Contact NWS New Orleans at 504-522-7330 or 985-649-0429

Reminder: Our [Mardi Gras Support Page](#) has hourly forecasts for all known parade locations with threshold-based color coding. It automatically updates every time we send a forecast update.

 **Web:** [www.weather.gov/neworleans](http://www.weather.gov/neworleans)

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