



**DALLAS COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
OFFICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION**

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DCHHS to Spray area in Balch Springs to Control Mosquitoes

August 5, 2008 (Dallas) – Wednesday, August 6, 2008, weather conditions permitting, Dallas County Health and Human Services (DCHHS) will spray an area in the City of Balch Springs south of Elam, north of I-20, west of Pioneer and east of Ambassador. Spray trucks will be in the area between 10 p.m. Wednesday night and 5 a.m. Thursday morning. In order to spray winds must be below 10 mph and the temperature should be between 70 and 80 degrees.

While the insecticide is considered safe, residents in the above areas should avoid contact with the spray by staying indoors. Persons inside a vehicle while trucks are actively spraying should remain in their vehicles with the windows up and the air conditioner off until the trucks pass and the spray is no longer visible. Residents who come in contact with the spray are advised to wash thoroughly with soap and water. The spray breaks down quickly in the presence of sunlight and has no residual effect. Fish ponds should be protected and pets should be brought inside during the spraying period.

The City of Balch Springs and DCHHS staffs are partnering to distribute public education materials throughout the infected area. The best way to avoid exposure to West Nile virus and other mosquito-borne illnesses is to use the three Ds - use insect repellent that contains **DEET**, picaradin or lemon oil of eucalyptus, **drain** any standing water, and **dress** in long clothing. The public can receive information on the locations of infected mosquito pools in Dallas County by sending an e-mail to westnile@dallascounty.org to be added to the *West Nile Watch* distribution list.

DCHHS continues to work with its municipal partners to protect Dallas County residents from mosquito-borne illnesses. DCHHS West Nile prevention activities include surveillance, source reduction, larvaciding (killing mosquito larvae or wigglers), adulticiding (spraying for adult mosquitoes), and public education. Dallas County has enhanced its early detection capability through the use of gravid traps for mosquito collection and global positioning systems equipment provided by the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS). For more information about mosquito activities in Dallas County, call the DCHHS Environmental Health Division at (214) 819-2115 or visit our West Nile website at www.dallascounty.org.

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