

PUBLIC HEALTH

PREPAREDNESS UPDATE

**March 2017**

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Zachary Thompson, Director

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Mosquito Season Underway: Zika and West Nile Surveillance Begin

Dallas County Health and Human Services (DCHHS) reported a record-breaking mosquito season last year with 695 positive mosquito traps in Dallas County.

Standing as the third highest West Nile season to date, there are a total of 61 West Nile diagnoses for the 2016 mosquito season. "Our partnering cities have been working together to collect mosquito traps across Dallas County. The increased number of positive West Nile traps tells us that trapping is working," said Zachary Thompson, DCHHS director. "The more we look for mosquitoes, the more we will find."

Not only did West Nile recycle back into communities, Zika virus made its debut to Dallas County in 2016 bringing in 61 imported confirmed and probable cases.

In preparation for this year's mosquito season, DCHHS held a second West Nile and Zika planning webinar for municipalities before launching this season's prevention campaign across the county.

The webinar focused on Zika clinical updates and provided guidelines for municipalities to consider when planning mosquito control for the upcoming season.

As of this month, DCHHS is finalizing mosquito planning and begins to launch prevention campaigns early.

Outreach consists of public health educators and vector control sharing best practices of mosquito prevention across the community, local news and social media campaigns, public health events, public service announcements, newsletters and partner-

ships with a host of community advocate groups and medical partners.

The prevention campaign aims to share best practices with residents to protect themselves from West Nile, Zika, Dengue and Chikungunya (CHIKV).

These diseases spread to people through the bite of an infected mosquito. Due to cooler temperatures, the only cases that have appeared this year are three imported cases of Zika virus.

Nevertheless, mosquito season is underway and DCHHS urges residents to start preparing now.

DCHHS Entomologist and Vector Control Manager Scott Sawlis says that during the winter, *Culex quinquefasciatus*, the vector of West Nile Virus, overwinters as an adult in sheltered areas.

The *Aedes* species that vector Zika, CHIKV and Dengue over-

winter as eggs in flood-prone environments, such as tree holes and other containers.

"Seasonally, with warm temperatures and proper water conditions, these species develop or emerge from their winter habitats," said Scott Sawlis.



Left to right: DCHHS Director Zachary Thompson, Vector Control Manager Scott Sawlis, Asst. Director Public Health Communicable Disease Tammara Scroggins, Asst. Director Environmental Health Rudy Phillips, Public Health Preparedness Manager Emily Gore and DCHHS Medical Director/Health Authority Dr. Christopher Perkins.

Remember the 4Ds:

- * Deet: All Day, Every Day
- * Dress: Wear long, loose and light colored clothing outside.
- * Drain: Drain or treat all standing water in and around your home or workplace.
- * Dusk & Dawn: Limit outdoor activities during dusk and dawn when mosquitoes are most active.

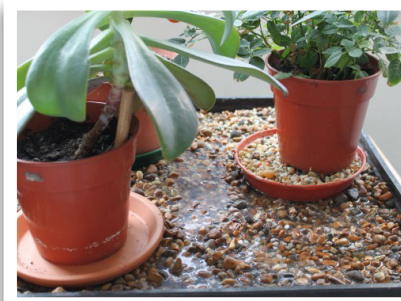
Mosquito Proof Your Home Now, Avoid The Bite



Repair or replace exposed window screens.



Stock up on insect repellents containing DEET.



Drain or treat all standing water in and around your home or workplace.

Healthy birth initiatives continue through Project Cradle Care

With Zika at the forefront of public health, DCHHS continues year round education on protecting pregnant women and their unborn children from the virus.

Last month, Public Health Educator LaShonda Worthy partnered with Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. to share information for the organizations Project Cradle Care program.

The program serves as a platform for the sorority to partner with local hospitals, managed care organizations and community based prenatal care providers to improve pregnancy outcomes in high risk communities.

Designed to provide adequate prenatal education, infant care and child

development, Project Cradle Care is a growing program that uniquely aligns with health concerns of pregnant women such as Zika.

Zika has been linked to causing microcephaly, which is a birth defect that causes a baby's head to be smaller than expected.

The defect can occur due to lack of brain development during pregnancy or lack of brain development after birth.

Through programs such as Project Cradle Care, DCHHS is able to provide tools for partnering educators to drive awareness regarding Zika and remain innovative through awareness campaigns.



DCHHS Public Health Educator LaShonda Worthy and Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc.

Annual Head Start of Greater Dallas Community Health Fair

Along with Parkland Hospital, City of Dallas, Dallas Independent School District, DCHHS and more than 30 additional vendors participated in the Head Start of Greater Dallas (HSGD) annual community fair.

The organization offers free, high quality child development services to income eligible families with children ages zero to 5-years-old. HSGD is child-focused

learning but also provides comprehensive services to the child's family.

During the event, more than 100 parents were provided with information on local services and connected with family advocate liaisons. DCHHS offered Zika, West Nile and Flu prevention to parents in addition to educating parents on emergency preparedness.



Left to right: Public Health Educator Marisa Gonzales and Asst. Director Public Health Communicable Disease Tammara Scroggins handing out preparedness materials.

Are Your Kidneys Ok? Get Your Free Screening March 9th

March 9, 2017 marks the 12th anniversary of World Kidney Day (WKD). In recognition of WKD, DCHHS and the National Kidney Foundation are partnering to provide free kidney screenings to Dallas County residents.

The event promotes health screenings and awareness by encouraging healthy habits to reduce the risk of developing kidney disease.

If gone undetected, consequences linked to kidney disease could lead to kidney failure, cardiovascular disease and could be terminal.

"Understanding and assessing your risk of kidney disease is vital to your long-term health," said Dr. Christopher Perkins, Dallas County health authority/medical director.

"Precautions such as staying active, eating healthy, maintaining a healthy weight, consuming plenty of fluids, eliminating smoking, and limiting over the counter pills

can help reduce your risk of kidney disease"

"If you are already considered high risk (diabetic, have high blood pressure, have a family history of kidney disease or if you have cardiovascular disease) your kidney functions should be checked regularly."

This year's health screening is set for March 9, 2017 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at DCHHS, 2377 N. Stemmons Frwy, Suite 627, Dallas, TX 75207.

For more information call 214-819-2000.



Dallas County Commissioners Present Resolution for National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day

In a regular meeting of Commissioners' Court in Dallas County, Commissioner John Wiley Price made a motion to adopt and proclaim Tuesday, Feb. 7, 2017, as National Black HIV/AIDS awareness day in Dallas County.

Recent HIV profiles from DCHHS indicate that HIV/AIDS cases in Dallas County remain disproportionately higher in African Americans, which is a similar trend observed in other large urban areas throughout the US.

In 2015, African Americans represented 49 percent of new HIV diagnoses, doubling the number of new cases in White, Hispanic, and other ethnicities combined.

Through their leadership, DCHHS Director Zachary Thompson, Medical Director/Health Authority Dr. Christopher Perkins and Asst. Director Public Health Communicable Disease, Tamara Scroggins press initiatives addressing

health disparities.

In celebration of National Black HIV/AIDS awareness day, DCHHS, Paul Quinn College, UT Southwestern CUIU, Project Impact, HIV/AIDS Regional Resource Network Program and the Chris Howell Foundation joined together to host a community event providing free STD testing recognizing the day.

“National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day is directed to mobilize Black communities to get educated, get tested, get involved and get treated around HIV/AIDS, as well as to mobilize community based organizations and stakeholders to get involved in HIV/AIDS prevention, care and treatment.”

said Commissioner John Wiley Price, Public Health Advisory Committee chairman.



DCHHS Public Health Educators Britni Williams and Janecia Holley with Paul Quinn Nursing Students.



DCHHS Public Information Officer Renae Crutchfield and the Chris Howell Foundation, LLC.



Disease Intervention Specialist III Sanon Martinez, STD Program Manager Felicia Barnett and Disease Intervention Specialist III Michael McDonald with Paul Quinn College Nursing Students and Staff.

DCHHS Director named community ambassador for AIDS Walk South Dallas 2017

AIDS Walk South Dallas 2017 is celebrating its seventh annual walk March 25, 2017 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. The theme for this year “Engage, Educate, Empower” aims to inspire and educate the community of South Dallas and surrounding areas to continue to curb the spread of HIV/AIDS and assist those impacted.

For the fourth year in a row, DCHHS Director Zachary Thompson has been named community ambassador for this year's walk.

DCHHS actively participates in community events that bring attention to HIV/AIDS health disparities in Dallas County.

Partnering with initiatives such as AIDS Walk South Dallas allows DCHHS to maximize the effectiveness of awareness by continuing messaging and communication with residents.

The starting point for the annual walk will be at the Martin Luther King Jr. Community Center. Funds raised from the walk will support future programs and services from AIDS Walk South Dallas, Inc.

Tickets for the walk are available now
www.aidswalksouthdallas.com

For more information about AIDS Walk South Dallas or the Martin Luther King Jr. Community Center, please contact Auntjuan Wiley, Event Chair at 469.410.3755

AIDS WALK SOUTH DALLAS 2017
BENEFITTING THE PROGRAMS AND SERVICES OF AIDS WALK SOUTH DALLAS, INC. "ENGAGE, EDUCATE, EMPOWER"

HOSTED BY
MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. COMMUNITY CENTER
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DALLAS, TEXAS 75215
www.dallasmkcenter.com

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<https://aidswalksouthdallas2017.eventbrite.com>
SPONSORSHIP - VENDORS - INDIVIDUAL WALKERS - TEAMS
AIDS Memorial Quilt Display provided by C.U.R.E.
Lunch sponsored by The Covenant Catering Company
THANK YOU TO ALL 2017 SPONSORS AND PARTNERS!

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT WWW.AIDSWALKSOUTHDALLAS.COM

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World TB Day March 24



DCHHS Staff providing TB skin test



Director of Tuberculosis explaining how TB chest X-rays assist with diagnosis



DCHHS Director of Tuberculosis Dr. Garry Woo and Public Health Educators Tanisha McCarroll and Golnaz Anbar.

Unite to End Tuberculosis

DCHHS will observe World Tuberculosis (TB) Day by offering free TB testing Friday March 24. The free testing event will take place at the main DCHHS clinic in room 300.

DCHHS welcomes residents to attend the event from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. DCHHS staff will administer skin testing during the process. Children must be at least 5 years old to be tested and parental consent is required for anyone under the age of 18 years old.



Left to right: Public Health Educator Tanisha McCarroll, Director of Tuberculosis Dr. Garry Woo and Public Health Educator Golnaz Anbar.



DCHHS
Safe families, healthy lives.

Dallas County Health and Human Services



Public Health Preparedness Division

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Public Health Preparedness Update is published monthly by Dallas County Health & Human Services. For information about this newsletter, contact DCHHS Public Information Officer Renae Crutchfield at 214-819-6329 or renae.crutchfield@dallascounty.org

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