



DCHHS
Safe families, healthy lives
Dallas County Health and Human Services



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DCHHS confirms mosquito samples test positive for West Nile virus

DALLAS (June 12, 2020) – Dallas County Health and Human Services' (DCHHS) laboratory confirmed mosquito samples have tested positive for West Nile virus. The mosquito traps were collected from the 75149 zip code of Mesquite.

"Right now, even though we still need to be concentrating on how to live safely with COVID-19, we cannot forget about West Nile Virus. As the summer heats up and more people are getting outside, remember the four Ds: Dress, Drain, Dusk/Dawn, and DEET", said Dr. Philip Huang, Director of DCHHS.

Residents should use the 4Ds to reduce exposure to mosquitoes:

- **DEET All day, Every day:** Whenever outside, use insect repellents that have the active ingredient DEET or other EPA-registered repellents and always follow label instructions.
- **Dress:** Wear long, loose, and light-colored clothing outside.
- **Drain:** Drain or treat all standing water in and around your home or workplace where mosquitoes could lay eggs.
- **All Day long:** Day, Dusk and Dawn -Limit your time outdoors mosquitoes are active anytime day or night.

DCHHS encourages residents in affected areas to be a part of the solution by eliminating insect breeding areas and larvae before they develop into adult, flying mosquitoes. Standing water can be treated with EPA-approved larvicides that are available for retail purchase.

Larvicides are products used to kill immature mosquitoes before they become adults. Larvicides are applied directly to water sources that hold mosquito eggs, larvae or pupae. When used consistently, larvicides can help reduce the overall mosquito burden by limiting the number of mosquitoes that are produced, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

For more information, visit our website <https://www.dallascounty.org/departments/dchhs/westnile.php>

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