



CONTACT:

Edrea Au, Public Information Officer

PIO_DCHHS@dallascounty.org

Dr. Philip Huang, Director

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Dallas County Health and Human Services Reports First West Nile Virus Death

Dallas (Oct. 7, 2026) –Dallas County Health and Human Services (DCHHS) reports the first West Nile Virus (WNV) death for the 2026 season. The resident was a male in their 60s with underlying medical conditions and diagnosed with the more serious neuroinvasive form of the disease known as, West Nile Neuroinvasive Disease (WNND). Additional information will not be released to protect the identity of the resident.

“We are deeply saddened by the loss of a Dallas County resident to West Nile virus,” said Dr. Philip Huang, Director of DCHHS. “We want residents to know that the arrival of cooler weather does not mean the threat is over. Please continue to protect yourself and your loved ones from mosquito bites and help prevent mosquito breeding around your home.”

DCHHS recommends practicing the four Ds:

- **DEET:** 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.
- **DUSK to DAWN:** Limit your time outdoors from dusk to dawn when mosquitoes are most active.

To date, DCHHS has found a total of 192 positive traps within Dallas County and reported six human WNV cases. Monitoring for the virus runs from April through mid-November.

For more information visit our website:

<https://www.dallascounty.org/departments/dchhs/data-reports/arbovirus-surveillance.php>