



PRESS RELEASE — July 25, 2013

Communications: 972-624-3156

First Human Case of West Nile Virus Reported in Denton County

THE COLONY, Texas — The Denton County Health Department (DCHD) has confirmed the first human case of West Nile virus for 2013 in the county. The patient is in his 40s, resides in the City of Denton, and has West Nile fever (the milder form of the illness). For patient confidentiality reasons, no further personal information will be released.

Residents are strongly encouraged to take precautions to reduce their risk of getting the virus by remembering the four D's:

- **Drain** standing water around their homes to reduce mosquito breeding grounds. Consider use of BTI briquettes (or mosquito dunks) in water that cannot be drained, such as small ponds and livestock drinking troughs.
- Stay indoors at **Dusk** and **Dawn**, when mosquitoes are most active.
- Apply an insect repellent that contains **DEET** (N,N-diethyl-m-toluamide), or another EPA-recommended product, to exposed skin and to clothing when outdoors. Other EPA-approved repellents include picaridin and oil of lemon eucalyptus.
- **Dress** in pants and long sleeves when outside, but avoid becoming too hot.

Additionally, residents should keep weeds, tall grass, and bushes trimmed, since these are prime resting grounds for mosquitoes.

Chief Epidemiologist Juan Rodriguez stresses that residents can play a large role in reducing their risk. “It is important for residents to take precautions to prevent mosquito bites by minimizing outdoor exposure during peak mosquito activity, dressing appropriately and using DEET or other EPA-approved repellents.”

DCHD has partnered with the Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) West Nile Task Force to provide free education throughout Denton County. If you are interested in West Nile education for your group or organization this summer, please contact RSVP at 940-383-1508.

DCHD has extensive information for residents on its West Nile Virus website, including tips for reducing mosquitoes around the home, frequently asked questions, and printable flyers and posters. The website is dentoncounty.com/WNV.

West Nile virus first appeared in Denton County in 2002. There were 184 human cases, including 2 deaths reported to health officials in the 2012 season.

The City of The Colony is asking all residents to be aware of and remove potential mosquito breeding grounds on their own property, and wear protective clothing and insect repellent when outside for activities. Although most mosquitoes are not disease carriers it is necessary to prevent all breeding grounds to effectively combat West Nile virus.

For additional information regarding mosquitoes and the City's mosquito treatment plan, contact Community Services Director Pam Nelson at 972-624-3958, via email at pnelson@thecolonytx.gov or Chemical Applicator Shane Bartel at 469-853-1222, via email at sbartel@thecolonytx.gov, or visit www.thecolonytx.gov/Depts/PARD/mosquitocontrol.html. If you notice standing water on private property, please contact The Colony Community Image Department at 972-624-3160.

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