



West Nile Virus Update for McLennan County

(September 12, 2014) The Waco-McLennan County Public Health District has received confirmation of a human case of West Nile Virus (WNV). This is the first human case of WNV in McLennan County since 2012. The patient, an 18 year old male from the 76682 zip code area has recovered. The Waco-McLennan County Health District will continue to update the community on any human cases.

Symptoms include fever and severe headache, confusion and disorientation along with weakness in muscles. Mosquitoes are known to be carriers of the West Nile virus.

The best way to protect you and yourself from mosquitoes is to follow the 4 Ds of protection.

- DEET Use mosquito repellent with the ingredient DEET.
- Dawn/Dusk Avoid the outside at dawn and dusk. These are the times when mosquitoes are most active.
- Drain Drain any standing or stagnant water
- Dress Wear long sleeves and pants to protect your skin.

Other steps include

- Check for clogged rain gutters and clean them out.
- Remove discarded tires, and other items that could collect water.
- Check for containers or trash in places that may be hard to see, such as under bushes or under your home.
- At least once or twice a week, empty water from flower pots, pet food and water dishes, birdbaths, swimming pool covers, buckets, barrels, and cans.
- The Culex mosquito is a weak flyer and typically travels less than 150 feet from where it emerges. Talk with your neighbors about removing breeding sites on their property too. Offer to help neighbors who may need it.

The Health District urges people to monitor their property for any standing water because mosquitoes need only a small amount of water to develop their eggs into adult mosquitoes. A female mosquito lays up to 200 eggs at one time. It only takes 7 -14 days for an egg to hatch and become another flying mosquito. Elimination of potential mosquito breeding habitats is a critical key for controlling WNV in McLennan County.

The Health District works with McLennan County and the cities within the County to eliminate mosquito breeding sites by monitoring municipal properties for stagnant water and other potential mosquito habitats. Larvicide, debris removal and landscaping are all methods that can be used to eliminate breeding sites.

The Health District's model ordinance is available on the Health District website at www.wacomclennanphd.org

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