



Waco-McLennan County Public Health District

Kelly Craine, Health Planner/Public Information Officer

225 W. Waco Drive, Waco, Texas 76707

Phone 254-750-5429

Fax 254-750-5452

kellyc@ci.waco.tx.us

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City of Beverly Hills

City of Bruceville-Eddy

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City of Hallsburg

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McLennan County

Health District Recognizes Mosquito Control Awareness Week

(June 22, 2015) Each year, the week of June 26 is declared National Mosquito Control Awareness Week by the American Mosquito Control Association. During the week of June 21 to June 27, the Waco-McLennan County Public Health District is working to educate the public about mosquitoes, their habitats, and how to protect against mosquito-borne illnesses.

As temperatures start to rise, conditions develop to create a good habitat for mosquitoes and the potential to spread diseases like West Nile Virus (WNV) and Chikungunya increases. At this time, there are no human cases of West Nile Virus or Chikungunya in McLennan County. The Waco-McLennan County Public Health District will continue to update the community on any human cases as the summer season progresses.

The Health District is working 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 by cities to eliminate breeding sites.

The best way to protect you from mosquitoes is to follow the 3 D's of protection:

- **Defend:** Use mosquito repellent. Wear light-colored, loose clothes and when practical, long sleeves and pants.
- **Drain:** Drain any standing or stagnant water.
- **Dawn/Dusk:** Different mosquito species bite different times of the day.

Always use mosquito repellent when you are outside. Use air conditioning or make sure there are screens on all doors and windows to keep mosquitoes from entering the home.

Other steps include

- Check for clogged rain gutters and clean them out.
- Remove discarded tires, and other items that could collect and hold water.
- Be sure to 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 flowerpots, pet food and water dishes, birdbaths, swimming pool covers, buckets, barrels, and cans.
- The mosquito travels about 150 feet from where it emerges. Talk with your neighbors about removing breeding sites on their property too.

The Health District urges people to check their property for any standing water or stagnant 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 to reducing the number of mosquitos in McLennan County. If you notice stagnant water in your area for a week or longer, report this problem to the Waco-McLennan County Public Health District at 254-750-5464 for assistance.

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