



West Nile Virus Update for McLennan County

City of Bellmead

City of Beverly Hills

City of Bruceville-Eddy

City of Crawford

City of Gholson

City of Golinda

City of Hallsburg

City of Hewitt

City of Lacy-Lakeview

City of Leroy

City of Lorena

City of Mart

City of McGregor

City of Moody

City of Riesel

City of Robinson

City of Ross

City of Waco

City of West

City of Woodway

McLennan County

(July 13, 2016) The Waco-McLennan County Public Health District has a probable case of West Nile Virus (WNV) in a human. Additional testing must be done to confirm this. Until that time, the Health District is treating this as the first human case for 2016. This is the first human case of WNV in McLennan County since 2014. The patient, a 23 year old male from Waco, was not hospitalized and has recovered. It is not known where the infection was acquired. The Waco-McLennan County Health District will continue to update the community on any human cases.

Symptoms include fever, headache, and body aches and possible rash, vomiting or diarrhea. When severe, it can also cause confusion, disorientation or muscle weakness. Culex Mosquitoes are the carriers of the West Nile virus.

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

- Defend Use mosquito repellent regularly.
- Drain Drain any standing or stagnant water.
- Day and Night Different mosquitos bite at different times of the day. Always have insect repellent available.
- 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