



Press

Release



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**For Immediate Release**

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## **West Nile Found in Wichita Falls Mosquitos**

Wichita Falls, Texas- The Texas Department of State Health Services laboratory has confirmed that a pool of mosquitoes from Wichita Falls has tested positive for West Nile Virus (WNV).

The mosquitoes were collected from traps placed in the city as part of the Wichita Falls-Wichita County Public Health District's routine mosquito surveillance program.

The mosquito pool that tested positive was collected in central Wichita Falls; however, citizens are urged to take precautions to prevent mosquito bites no matter where they are.

The Health District staff has worked diligently with city of Wichita Falls GIS staff to publish a new interactive mosquito spray map. Citizens can look to see whether their area has been sprayed for mosquitoes. View the map here: [health.wichitafallstx.gov](http://health.wichitafallstx.gov)

West Nile Virus can be transmitted to humans by mosquitoes. However, anyone can reduce their risk of being infected by following these precautions:

1. **Dump/Drain:** Be sure to dump or drain any standing water.
2. **Deet:** If you are going outside, wear an EPA approved insect repellent.
3. **Dress:** Wear long sleeves and long pants if you are going to be outside.
4. **Dusk/Dawn and all Day:** Mosquitoes are generally considered most active at dusk and dawn but you should follow precautions anytime.

The Health District's Environmental Health Division will continue its integrated pest management program for mosquito control. This includes continuing to test mosquitoes for West Nile Virus and other mosquito-borne diseases, treating standing water, eliminating breeding areas and spraying for adult mosquitoes when weather conditions are favorable.

Only some mosquito species that are present in Wichita County have the capability of spreading diseases such as West Nile Virus, most are considered a nuisance. At this time, the Wichita Falls-Wichita County Public Health District has not received any reports of a positive human case of West Nile Virus this season. Even so, if you experience flu like symptoms following a mosquito bite please contact your healthcare provider.

To request spraying for mosquitoes please contact the Health District's Vector Control unit at 761-7890.

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