



DCHHS
Safe families, healthy lives

Dallas County Health and Human Services



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DCHHS reports first and second West Nile virus associated deaths and an additional human case of the 2020 season

DALLAS (Sep. 6, 2020) – Dallas County Health and Human Services (DCHHS) is reporting the first and second West Nile virus (WNV) associated deaths and an additional human case of the 2020 season. The first death reported was a 63-year-old resident of the 75215 zip code in Dallas. The second death an 88-year-old resident of zip code 75227 in Dallas. Both were diagnosed with West Nile Neuroinvasive Disease (WNND). Additionally, DCHHS is reporting the fifth human case of WNV infection in Dallas County for 2020. The patient is a 75-year-old resident of the 75062 zip code in Irving and has was diagnosed with WNND. For medical confidentiality and personal privacy purposes, DCHHS does not provide additional identifying information. To date, seven human cases of West Nile virus and two West Nile associated deaths have been reported for the 2020 season.

This season, mosquito samples have tested positive for WNV in the cities of Addison, Balch Springs, Carrollton, Cedar Hill, Coppell, Dallas, Desoto, Duncanville, Farmers Branch, Garland, Glenn Heights, Highland Park, Hutchins, Irving, Lancaster, Mesquite, Richardson, Rowlett, and University Park.

“Our first two deaths in Dallas County this year due to West Nile Virus are reminders of the seriousness of West Nile Virus disease and the importance of being vigilant about avoiding mosquito bites”, said Dr. Philip Huang, Director of DCHHS. “All should continue to practice the four D’s.”

- **DEET:** All Day, Every Day: Whenever you’re outside, use insect repellents that contain DEET or other EPA approved repellents and follow instructions.
- **Dress:** Wear long, loose, and light-colored clothing outside.
- **Drain:** Drain or treat all standing water in and around your home or workplace where mosquitoes could lay eggs.
- **All Day long:** Day, Dusk and Dawn - Limit your time outdoors mosquitos are active anytime day or night.

WNV is a disease that is spread by the bite of an infected mosquito. Mosquitoes can become infected when they feed on the blood from infected birds. The infected mosquitoes can then transmit WNV to humans and animals. Severe WNV infections can cause neurologic complications such as encephalitis. Milder symptoms include fever, headache and muscle aches. There is no vaccine or specific treatment for WNV.

For more information, visit our website: <https://www.dallascounty.org/departments/dchhs/westnile.php>

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