



Mosquito Control And West Nile Virus Prevention

This year North Texas has gained attention both statewide and nationally because of the increased number of West Nile Virus (WNV) cases that have been reported. In order to combat WNV Fairview citizens should be observant of their surroundings and take advantage of educational resources to learn more about WNV and preventative measures that can be taken to try and mitigate the contraction of WNV.

Collin County Health Care Services on their website states that you can protect yourself and your family against WNV by following the **“Five D’s”**:

- **DRAIN**-all areas of standing water including changing water in wading pools and bird baths every other day, cleaning out gutters, and not allowing water to stagnate in old tires, flowerpots, trash containers, pet bowls, etc.;
- **DEET**-Use insect repellents that contain DEET or are recommended by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) to provide protection for the amount of time you will be outdoors;
- **DRESS**-Dress in light-colored clothing with long sleeves and pants;
- **DUSK/DAWN**-Limit outdoor exposure at dusk and dawn;
- **DOORS**-Keep door and window screens in good repair.

Preventative actions taken at the individual level will go a long way at combating the potential for exposure to the virus. Everyone should look for places around their home or business that contain standing water and drain them. A few examples of places where standing water may occur are:

- Playground equipment can collect water after rain showers or after watering the lawn.
- Lawn furniture and equipment can easily accumulate water.
- Gutter downspouts can cause water to accumulate on the ground underneath. Splash guards can be utilized to better disperse water and prevent collection.
- Stacks of aged wood can hold water and become a breeding ground for mosquitos. Discarding old wood and keeping new wood in a dry locations is ideal.
- Buckets and other items commonly found in the back of truck beds can collect water and should be dumped out regularly.
- Boats contain many places where water can accumulate. Keeping boats drained and covered is a good preventative measure to take.
- Overwatering plants can create a potential hazard. Try to avoid overwatering plants and drain drip trays if necessary.

The preventative measures provided above are just some of ways individuals can actively combat WNV. Monitoring this issue and further education on the subject should continue to be a priority. The town encourages all residents and local business owners to assess and monitor their properties on a

regular basis and to take appropriate actions if necessary so that any potential hazards can be eliminated before they become a potential threat to public health.

If you or someone you know believes that they may have contracted WNV please seek medical attention as soon as possible.

For more information about WNV and other preventative measure please visit the websites below:

Texas Department of State Health Services

<http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/idcu/disease/arboviral/westnile/>

Centers for Disease Control

<http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/index.htm>

Collin County Health Care Services

http://www.co.collin.tx.us/healthcare_services/west_nile/west_nile.jsp