

Offices Closed for Independence Day - Please note that all county offices will be closed on **Thursday, July 4th** in observance of the Independence Day holiday. This includes parks offices, public works, courts and all other administrative offices. Offices will reopen on Friday, July 5th.



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Skeeter Beaters!
All About West Nile Virus
Learn more >

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West Nile Virus Information



Latest News on West Nile Virus in Collin County

- [Updated Information](#): The latest news re. WNV released from the County Health Care Department.

How to Beat the Skeet(ers)

More information about WNV, how to help keep mosquitoes away from your home, and the best ways to prevent getting bit and contracting WNV:

[Fact Sheet](#)

Basic information that you can read, print out and share.



[The 4 Ds](#)

The most effective way to avoid contracting WNV. And it's so easy and inexpensive too.



[5 x 5](#)

Keep the annoying pests away from your house and community by following these easy steps.



[Our Partners](#)

We're teaming up with our neighbors to help control WNV this summer, not only here in our county but all throughout north Texas.





Collin County West Nile Virus
Fact Sheet

Beaters

MILD WINTER = MORE MOSQUITOES = HIGHER RISK OF WNV

With yet another mild winter behind us, this summer, like last year, is shaping up to be another season of mosquito proliferation, which means a higher risk to contract West Nile Virus (WNV). But before we either exaggerate or underestimate WNV’s public health threat, here are the facts:

The Culprit

It’s small but problematic – commonly known as the Southern House Mosquito, this little insect is mainly to blame for WNV in Texas. It breeds profusely in dirty water collections like stagnant drains, pooled water on the ground or in containers, ponds, etc. It can travel up to ½ mile and is most active from dusk till early morning.

The Disease

WNV is only spread to humans and animals by infected mosquito bites. Mosquitoes get WNV from biting infected birds. The severity of WNV varies individually – some people get it and don’t ever know it. Others experience flu-like symptoms, and the worst suffer neurologic complications like encephalitis or worse. Symptoms show usually between 3 to 14 days after a mosquito bite. There is no cure for WNV, and treatment is limited to relieving symptoms and rehabilitation in more severe cases.

Warning Signs

Infected mosquitoes. Period. Traps help us locate the insects responsible for WNV, which helps us determine where to focus mosquito eradication efforts. Dead birds and squirrels, while possibly indicative of areas with WNV activity and useful as historical data, don’t usually help effective immediate eradication actions. Likewise, tracking human cases is also iffy, unless an infected person never leaves his or her house – since we can be bitten anywhere we go, where we live may not mean much in tracking WNV.

How We Win This One

Ben Franklin was right – an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure (or in WNV cases, a pound of hoping we get better). In other words, avoid mosquito bites. Here’s how:

Cover up: Wear long sleeve tops, long pants and socks sprayed with mosquito repellent.

Spray yourself: Use a repellent containing DEET or other proven deterrents on outer clothing and exposed body parts. Never spray on skin under clothing. And always follow the spray directions – these sprays are safe when used correctly.

Dump and repair: Get rid of standing water around the outside of your home – even small amounts could become mosquito breeding grounds. Or treat water in ponds, fountains or bird baths with appropriate chemicals available at DIY stores. And repair or install window and door screens to keep mosquitoes out of the house.

What About Spraying?

Ground and/or aerial spraying are options if the number of infected mosquitoes found pose a public health risk. But ground spraying is limited in how far it can reach from the dispensing trucks on the street, and aerial spraying, in order to be effective, needs to be done on three consecutive nights for each round of spraying, and repeated every two weeks if infected mosquitoes are still present. Not to mention the millions of dollars it would cost for even one spray application. Bottom line? Spraying could help, but it won’t eliminate WNV.

In Sum

Your public health authorities are working together to minimize the WNV risks by closely monitoring our North Texas counties for the locations of infected mosquitoes, and eliminating these pests as best they can. But the first and best way to avoid WNV is self-prevention. Prevent mosquito breeding around your home, protect yourselves and avoid getting bitten – and you won’t have to worry about WNV this summer!

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West Nile Virus: The 4 Ds

The most effective way to avoid contracting WNV is **SELF PROTECTION**. And it's so easy and inexpensive too.

Just follow the 4 Ds:

Dusk to Dawn

Stay indoors during evening to early Morning hours — from about 7:00 pm to 6:00 am. This is when mosquitoes are most active... and hungry!

Dress

In long sleeves and pants when outdoors. Clothes are that magic barrier to keep mosquitoes from finding skin to bite.

Dump and Defend

Get rid of any water outside that has been standing for more than three days, including stagnant swimming pools, birdbaths, pet dishes, empty pots and planters, clogged rain gutters, etc. Mosquitoes only need a few inches of standing water to breed, so keep policing the outside of your home to get rid of all of it!

While you're at it, keep unwanted pest guests out of your home by repairing or installing window and door screens.

Deterrent

Use insect repellent containing DEET or other proven deterrents (here's a list) on your outer clothing and exposed skin (never skin under clothing). These products are safe when used according to their directions. And they help keep mosquitoes and other insects like ticks away!

Follow the 4 Ds and you'll be doing the best thing to do to keep mosquitoes, and West Nile Virus, away this summer!



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West Nile Virus: 5 x 5

How can you help keep mosquitoes out of your neighborhood this summer?
Simple:

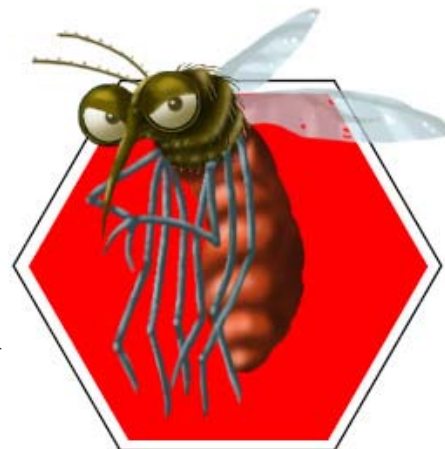
First, get rid of any standing water around the outside of your house. It's there, in birdbaths, empty pots and planters, clogged rain gutters — anywhere water can accumulate from rain or sprinklers.

5x5 Second, practice 5x5:
Encourage **five neighbors** to the left of you and **five neighbors** to the right of you to do the same thing.

Five by five. Get it? And when your neighbors also practice 5x5, pretty soon your whole neighborhood, then surrounding neighborhoods, and eventually your whole town is cleaning up outside to help keep mosquitoes from breeding and setting up house around you.

It's a big project for such a little pest, but remember that mosquitoes spread West Nile Virus, and that's a big problem. So doing a little clean up and asking a few others to do it too doesn't seem so trivial now, does it?

Check out this [PSA about standing water and 5x5](#).



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West Nile Virus: Our Partners

Our last mild winter means that we can expect a potentially severe summer for mosquitoes and, as a result, West Nile Virus. Thankfully, North Texas authorities are looking out for you! And in the spirit of cooperation and public health, your local government bodies are working together to keep our mosquito populations down and your summer fun levels up!

We're teaming up against West Nile Virus! Check out each of our partners' web sites and see what they're doing, and what they're finding, in our collective fight against skeeters and sickness!



[Dallas County](#)

[Tarrant County](#)

[Denton County](#)

City resources:

[Allen](#)

[Fairview](#)

[Fort Worth](#)

[Frisco](#)

[McKinney](#)

[Murphy](#)

[Plano](#)

[Wylie](#)

Other resources:

[Center for Disease Control \(CDC\)](#)

[Texas Department of State Health Services \(Tx DSHS\)](#)

