

City of Dallas News Release

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City of Dallas

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Three More West Nile Virus Positive Mosquito Collections Reported *Recent rain should prompt citizens to check property for standing water and take measures to avoid mosquito bites*

Dallas – Three mosquito collections that tested positive for West Nile virus brings the total of West Nile infected collections this season to nine. With the two positive collections reported earlier this week, indications are that the number of infected mosquitoes in the city could be increasing sharply. Spraying in the three affected areas is scheduled for next week.

Protection against mosquito bites

Dallas residents are urged to take precautions against mosquito bites by reducing outdoor activity during evening and nighttime hours. Residents who are outside during these times should cover their arms and legs and use a mosquito repellent.

Prevent mosquito breeding

Residents should eliminate standing water to prevent mosquito breeding and the spread of West Nile Virus. This is especially important after the recent rain. Breeding places for mosquitoes include swimming pools that are not kept clean, stagnant ponds, pet watering dishes, birdbaths, potted plants, old tires, empty containers, toys, clogged rain gutters and French drains. Standing water should be eliminated promptly, as mosquitoes can grow from egg to adult in as little as seven days.

City's mosquito spray program

The pesticide and spray methods are adapted for the purpose of reducing the adult mosquito population. Only those areas where infected mosquitoes have been found are scheduled for spraying. The active ingredients in the pesticides used are permethrin and piperonyl butoxide. A 300-foot swath is the effective range and only insects present and which come into contact with the pesticide may be killed. Insects which are not active at night like bees and dragon flies should not be affected.

To report standing water or mosquito problems Dallas residents should call 3-1-1. For additional information on Mosquito Control, visit the City's website at www.dallascityhall.com.