



For Immediate Release

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Kingsville City Health Department Responding to Detection of West Nile Positive Mosquito Pool in Kingsville

KINGSVILLE, TX – The City of Kingsville Health Department traps mosquitos monthly in order to send samples to the Texas Department of State Health Services lab in Austin for arbovirus testing. Kingsville City Health Director Emilio Garcia is notifying the public that a mosquito, trapped Tuesday, August 13th, has tested positive for West Nile Virus.

In response to the detection of the West Nile virus, crews will begin spraying the impacted locations tonight, August 23rd. The operation will continue for three days, through Sunday evening. The infected mosquito was trapped in 700 Block of E. Warren Avenue.

There are currently no identified human West Nile infections in our region. Many people impacted by West Nile Virus will be asymptomatic or develop mild flu-like illness, however, in rare cases, West Nile Virus infection can cause central nervous system damage and even death.

City staff are working closely with Region 11 to assure the City Health Department response reduces the threat of West Nile Virus transmission. “This is the first case of West Nile Virus detected in Kleberg County this season, we want the community to know that our three-day operation should significantly decrease the risk of transmission,” said Garcia “that response, coupled with recommended mosquito bite prevention practices should help keep the community safe.” Once the three-day spraying operation is complete, crews will trap mosquitos in the impacted areas again to retest mosquito pools at those specific sites.

The community is urged to follow previously recommended mosquito bite prevention practices by avoiding outdoor activity at dawn and dusk when mosquitos are most active. For outdoor activity during these time frames, the health department recommends residents wear long pants and long sleeves and use a mosquito repellent that contains DEET. You can also help prevent mosquitos breeding around your home and business by clearing any standing water on your property. Buckets, tires and bird feeders facilitate mosquito breeding. It’s a good idea to keep your lawn maintained to curb mosquito breeding. Neighboring counties have also detected positive West Nile Virus mosquito pools this summer, so, it is suggested residents follow mosquito bite prevention practices whether at home or visiting neighboring communities.

You may get the most up-to-date and accurate information on the official City of Kingsville Facebook Page.

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