

PUBLIC HEALTH

PREPAREDNESS UPDATE



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Zachary Thompson, Director

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Healthy Birth Initiatives Continue Through Project Cradle Care

Annual Head Start of Greater Dallas Health Fair

Are Your Kidneys Ok? Get Your Free Screening March 9

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Dallas County Commissioners Present Resolution for National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day

DCHHS Director named community ambassador for AIDS Walk South Dallas 2017

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World TB Day: Unite to End Tuberculosis

Mosquito Season Underway: Zika and West Nile Surveillance Begin

Dallas County Health and Human Services (DCHHS) reported a record-breaking mosquito season last year with 695 positive mosquito traps in Dallas County.

Standing as the third highest West Nile season to date, there are a total of 61 West Nile diagnoses for the 2016 mosquito season. "Our partnering cities have been working together to collect mosquito traps across Dallas County. The increased number of positive West Nile traps tells us that trapping is working," said Zachary Thompson, DCHHS director. "The more we look for mosquitoes, the more we will find."

Not only did West Nile recycle back into communities, Zika virus made its debut to Dallas County in 2016 bringing in 61 imported confirmed and probable cases.

In preparation for this year's mosquito season, DCHHS held a second West Nile and Zika planning webinar for municipalities before launching this season's prevention campaign across the county.

The webinar focused on Zika clinical updates and provided guidelines for municipalities to consider when planning mosquito control for the upcoming season.

As of this month, DCHHS is finalizing mosquito planning and begins to launch prevention campaigns early.

Outreach consists of public health educators and vector control sharing best practices of mosquito prevention across the community, local news and social media campaigns, public health events, public service announcements, newsletters and partner-

ships with a host of community advocate groups and medical partners.

The prevention campaign aims to share best practices with residents to protect themselves from West Nile, Zika, Dengue and Chikungunya (CHIKV).

These diseases spread to people through the bite of an infected mosquito. Due to cooler temperatures, the only cases that have appeared this year are three imported cases of Zika virus.

Nevertheless, mosquito season is underway and DCHHS urges residents to start preparing now.

DCHHS Entomologist and Vector Control Manager Scott Sawlis says that during the winter, *Culex quinquefasciatus*, the vector of West Nile Virus, overwinters as an adult in sheltered areas.

The *Aedes* species that vector Zika, CHIKV and Dengue over-

winter as eggs in flood-prone environments, such as tree holes and other containers.

"Seasonally, with warm temperatures and proper water conditions, these species develop or emerge from their winter habitats," said Scott Sawlis.



Left to right: DCHHS Director Zachary Thompson, Vector Control Manager Scott Sawlis, Asst. Director Public Health Communicable Disease Tammara Scroggins, Asst. Director Environmental Health Rudy Phillips, Public Health Preparedness Manager Emily Gore and DCHHS Medical Director/Health Authority Dr. Christopher Perkins.

Remember the 4Ds:

- * Deet: All Day, Every Day
- * Dress: Wear long, loose and light colored clothing outside.
- * Drain: Drain or treat all standing water in and around your home or workplace.
- * Dusk & Dawn: Limit outdoor activities during dusk and dawn when mosquitoes are most active.

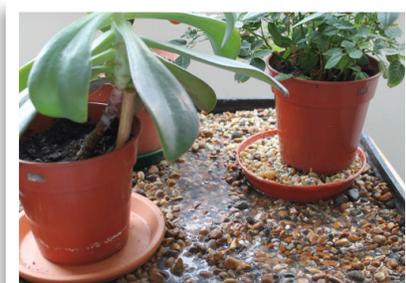
Mosquito Proof Your Home Now, Avoid The Bite



Repair or replace exposed window screens.



Stock up on insect repellents containing DEET.



Drain or treat all standing water in and around your home or workplace.