



## Williamson County and Cities Health District

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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#### **WCCHD REPORTS THE FIRST HUMAN CASE OF WEST NILE VIRUS THIS YEAR Seven additional trap sites are active positive for West Nile mosquito samples**

August 28, 2020 – The Williamson County and Cities Health District (WCCHD) is reporting the first human case of West Nile Virus (WNV) neuroinvasive disease in Williamson County for 2020. The person is in their 40s and resides in southern Williamson County.

This season, 12 mosquito trap samples have tested positive for West Nile virus in Williamson County. Ground spraying occurred last week in Georgetown, and is scheduled to occur again for the next three nights in the same area starting tonight.

Additional active positive traps have been reported in the Southwest Williamson County Regional Park/New Hope Drive area in Leander, and a new positive trap site was reported today near the Brushy Creek Community Center, near the intersection of Great Oaks Drive and Racine Trail in Round Rock.

“The report of the first human case of West Nile virus in Williamson County this year is a stark reminder to the community of the need to take steps to avoid mosquito bites and to reduce mosquito populations,” said Dr. Lori Palazzo, WCCHD Medical Director and Williamson County Health Authority. “The simplest way to avoid exposure to mosquito-borne diseases is to avoid mosquito bites by protecting yourself with insect repellent each time you are outdoors, especially at dusk and dawn, and by preventing mosquito breeding areas around your home.”

Symptoms of West Nile virus infection may include fever, headache, and body aches, skin rash on the trunk of the body, and swollen lymph nodes. Those age 50 and older and/or with compromised immune systems are at a higher risk for severe symptoms, which may include stiffness, disorientation, coma, tremors, vision loss, paralysis, and in rare cases, death. West Nile virus cannot be passed from human to human, infection occurs from a bite of an infected mosquito.

WCCHD strongly encourages everyone to remain vigilant about protecting themselves from mosquito bites and to prevent mosquito breeding on their personal property. Mosquitoes breed in standing water, only needing as little as one teaspoon. By draining all sources of standing

water in and around your property, you can reduce the number of places mosquitoes can lay their eggs and breed.

### **What you can do**

As part of its Fight the Bite campaign the Health District recommends the 3 Ds of mosquito safety:

- Drain standing water in flowerpots, pet dishes, or clogged gutters so mosquitoes don't have a place to breed and treat water that can't be drained,
- Defend by using an EPA-approved insect repellent, and
- Dress in long sleeves and pants when outdoors.

For more information, go to the WCCHD website at [www.wcchd.org](http://www.wcchd.org) or visit the Texas Department of State Health Services West Nile website at [txwestnile.org](http://txwestnile.org).

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