



**DALLAS COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

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For Immediate Release

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Mosquito Sample in Highland Park Tests Positive for West Nile

July 14, 2004– The Dallas County Health and Human Services (DCHHS) lab reports a mosquito sample from the town of Highland Park tested positive for the West Nile virus on July 13.

The sample was from the corner of Drexel and Euclid in the 75205 zip code (MAPSCO 35-Q) in Highland Park.

The sample from Highland Park is classified as a presumptive positive until confirmation from TDH, expected later this week.

DCHHS crews will spray (truck-based) Highland Park **Thursday (July 15, 2004) after 8 p.m.**, weather permitting.

“In order to spray we need winds below 10 mph and a temperature preferably between 70 and 80 degrees,” Scott Sawlis, DCHHS Entomologist, said. “We also cannot spray when it is raining.”

Crews are scheduled to spray an area in the 75205 zip code (MAPSCO 35-Q). **The spray area is South of Miramar, East of Fairfield and Drexel, West of St. John’s and North of Armstrong.**

Crews will be spraying after 8 p.m. Residents are encouraged to stay indoors to avoid contact with the spray.

Spraying notifications and prevention flyers will be distributed by the Town of Highland Park in the spraying area this afternoon.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, mosquitoes are the primary carriers of West Nile Virus. Mosquitoes become infected when they feed on infected birds or other animals. Once infected, the mosquitoes may then transmit the virus to humans and/or animals during subsequent feedings. **(West Nile Virus cannot be spread by person-to-person contact. Birds, horses, or other animals cannot infect humans with the West Nile Virus.)**

In 2003, Dallas County had 54 human West Nile cases with 4 deaths. Dallas County also reported the virus was found in 41 birds, 15 horses, and 115 mosquito samples in 2003.

In 2002, the first year the virus was reported in Dallas County, there were 27 human cases with 2 deaths. The virus was also found in 28 birds, 26 horses, and 42 mosquito samples in Dallas County in 2002.

As in previous years, public education and personal protection is vital in protecting the public from the disease.

“There are simple precautions that individuals can take to protect themselves, their property and their community from the disease,” said DCHHS Medical Director Dr. David Buhner.

Dr. Buhner urges the public to do the following in order to protect themselves, their homes, and their yards from mosquitoes:

(more)



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PROTECT YOURSELF:

- **When outside, wear long, loose-fitting, light-colored clothing to avoid mosquito bites.**
- **Use insect repellent products containing “DEET” or other EPA approved repellent compounds. Follow product instructions.**

PROTECT YOUR HOUSE

- **Keep doors, porches and window screens in good condition and frames sealed tightly to help keep mosquitoes out of the house.**
- **Repair any leaking plumbing and outside faucets.**

PROTECT YOUR YARD

- **Get rid of all standing water.**
- **Empty, remove, cover or turn upside down any receptacle/container that will hold standing water (gutters, bottles, cans, tires, buckets, flower pots, etc.).**
- **Change water in pet dishes, wading pools, and birdbaths daily. Cover trash containers so they will not collect water.**

The public can call the DCHHS hotline at 214-819-6001 for more information about the virus.

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DCHHS Environmental Health Division is responsible for all mosquito control activities for the unincorporated areas in Dallas County, plus 14 other contracting cities (Balch Springs, Cockrell Hill, DeSoto, Duncanville, Glenn Heights, Highland Park, Hutchins, Lancaster, Rowlett, Sachse, Seagoville, Sunnyvale, University Park and Wilmer), encompassing 239 square miles and serving 255,000 residents. Cities not mentioned in this list have their own mosquito control programs.