

Two Additional Human Cases of West Nile Virus Reported in Denton County

June 26, 2012-Denton County Health Department (DCHD) has investigated and confirmed two additional cases of West Nile disease, bringing this year's total to three. The two new cases are within the City of Denton. For patient confidentiality reasons, no further personal information will be released.

DCHD encourages residents to take the proper precautions to reduce their risk of getting the mosquito-borne West Nile virus by remembering the four D's: drain, dress, DEET and dusk/dawn. Residents should:

- **Drain** standing water around their homes to reduce mosquito breeding grounds.
- **Dress** in pants and long sleeves when outside, but avoid becoming too hot.
- Apply an insect repellent that contains **DEET** (N,N-diethyl-m-toluamide) to exposed skin and to clothing when outdoors.
- Stay indoors at **dusk and dawn**, when mosquitoes are most active.

DCHD Chief Epidemiologist Juan Rodriguez states that every mosquito bite does not cause illness. "Not every mosquito carries the virus, and less than 1 percent of the bites from mosquitoes that do have the virus actually cause serious illness," he said. "But West Nile illness does exist in Denton County, and it's a good idea to reduce the risk by eliminating mosquito hatching grounds and by minimizing exposure to mosquitoes."

Most people bitten by a West Nile virus-carrying mosquito will not experience any symptoms. Some may experience mild symptoms, such as fever, headache, nausea, body aches, swollen lymph nodes, and skin rash. Less than 1% of those infected with West Nile virus will experience the serious form of the illness; serious symptoms include high fever, severe headache, neck stiffness, disorientation, tremors or convulsions, vision loss, muscle weakness, and numbness or paralysis. Residents experiencing any of these symptoms should contact their health care provider.

DCHD has partnered with Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) to develop an extensive West Nile virus task force to provide West Nile education around Denton County. Diana Corona, Executive Director of RSVP says "RSVP has volunteers that are ready and trained to present this important information". If you are interested in the West Nile education, please contact RSVP at 940-383-1508.

The Denton County Health Department maintains a West Nile virus website at <http://www.dentoncounty.com/heart/WNV>. Please visit this site to find information about symptoms, prevention tips, how to reduce mosquitoes around your home, and disease statistics.