



Leander Fire Department

Contacts:

Bill Gardner, City of Leander Fire Chief/EMC
512-528-1664
bgardner@leandertx.gov

Deb Strahler, Marketing and Communications Director
Williamson County and Cities Health District
512-248-7629
dstrahler@wcchd.org

Media Release

(For Immediate Release – November 9, 2016)

12th Positive WilCO West Nile Virus Mosquito Sample Located in Leander. Truck Mounted Spraying Scheduled for Friday, Nov. 11 – Sunday, Nov. 13.

Trapped mosquitoes collected from a sampling location in Leander have tested positive for West Nile Virus. This testing is part of the City of Leander's proactive participation in the Williamson County and Cities Health District's mosquito management program. The sample was taken on Nov. 3 and the positive test was indicated in a lab result from the Texas Department of State Health Services lab in Austin and reported to the City on Nov. 8, 2016. This is the 12th positive sample in Williamson County.

The Health District sets traps at three locations in Leander. The trap that tested positive was located near Devine Lake Park off Waterfall Ave. The species that tested positive is *Culex quinquefasciatus* (southern house mosquito) and has a flight range of about one mile.

The City is following the Health District's Best Practices for Integrated Mosquito Management which, at this time, calls for truck mounted spraying, along with enhanced monitoring and testing and increased public outreach and education. Enhanced mosquito control efforts will also continue with the treatment of standing water with larvacide.

A pesticide contractor is scheduled to spray in the vicinity. **Truck-mounted-spraying is planned for three consecutive nights beginning Friday, November 11 at 9 pm in the impacted areas including the neighborhood around Devine Lake Park.** A map is included showing the area where application of the pesticide is planned. Although the mosquito control product poses no significant health risk, if possible, people and pets may want to stay indoors during spraying.

The City and the Health District are encouraging everyone to be especially vigilant about protecting themselves from mosquito bites when outdoors, and preventing mosquito breeding on their personal property. Recent rain and continued warm temperatures are prime breeding conditions for mosquitoes.

What you can do:

Mosquitoes breed in standing or stagnant water. Eliminating places where mosquitoes can breed and reducing the chances of mosquito bites are the most effective lines of defense against exposure to West Nile Virus. As part of its Fight the Bite campaign the Health District recommends the 3Ds of mosquito safety.

- Drain standing water in flower pots, 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, especially at Dusk and Dawn.
- Dress in long sleeves and pants when outdoors.

West Nile Virus should not be confused with other mosquito-borne viruses. For more information on mosquito prevention methods or about West Nile Virus visit www.wcchd.org or www.txwestnile.org. ###