

Mosquito Preparedness

As we enjoy summer and fun outdoor activities, we should all be taking steps to protect against West Nile virus (WNV), Zika virus disease (Zika), Dengue virus (Dengue Fever) and Chikungunya virus. A rainy yet hot spring can especially increase the mosquito population. In order to combat illnesses, Fairview citizens should be observant of their surroundings and take advantage of educational resources to learn more about these diseases and the preventative measures that can be taken to try to mitigate contraction.

Local municipalities as well as Collin, Dallas and Denton counties work together to share data as well as best practices and that seems to be working well in fighting mosquitos. As in past years, the Town has contracted with Municipal Mosquito to perform trapping and testing every week. They will also be proactively applying larvacide where needed.

You can better protect yourself and your family by following the **Four Ds***:

- **DUSK/DAWN/DAY**- Stay indoors during evening to early morning hours-from about 7:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. to avoid active and hungry mosquitoes, particularly those with West Nile. However, keep in mind that mosquitos with Zika, Dengue and Chikungunya infected mosquitoes are most active during the day.
- **DRESS**- In long sleeves and pants when outdoors. Clothes are that magic barrier to keep mosquitoes from finding skin to bite;
- **DUMP & DEFEND**- Get rid of any water outside that has been standing for more than three days, including stagnant swimming pools, birdbaths, pet dishes, empty pots and planters, clogged rain gutters, etc. Mosquitoes only need a few inches of standing water to breed. Also, keep mosquitoes out of your home by repairing or installing window and door screens; and
- **DETERRENT**- Use insect repellent containing DEET or other proven deterrents on your outer clothing and exposed skin (never skin under clothing). These products are safe when used according to their directions. They help keep mosquitoes and other insects like ticks away! Also, utilize mosquito-detering plants in your yard such as marigolds or lavender.

Preventative actions taken at the individual level will go a long way in combating the potential for exposure to the virus. Everyone should look for places around their home or business that contain standing water and drain them. A few examples of places where standing water can occur are:

- Playground equipment can collect water after rain showers or after watering the lawn.
- Lawn furniture and equipment can easily accumulate water.
- Gutter downspouts can cause water to accumulate on the ground underneath. Splash guards can be utilized to better disperse water and prevent collection.

- Stacks of aged wood can hold water and become a breeding ground for mosquitoes. Discarding old wood and keeping new wood in dry locations is ideal.
- Buckets and other items commonly found in the back of truck beds can collect water and should be dumped out regularly.
- Boats contain many places where water can accumulate; keep boats drained and covered.
- Avoid overwatering plants and drain drip trays, if necessary.

The preventative measures provided above are just some of ways individuals can actively combat disease. The town encourages all residents and local business owners to assess and monitor their properties on a regular basis and to take appropriate actions so that any potential hazards can be eliminated before they become a real threat to public health.

If you or someone you know believes that they may have contracted a mosquito-borne illness, please seek medical attention as soon as possible. Monitoring this issue and further education on the subject should continue to be a priority. For more information about these diseases and other preventative measures, please visit the websites below:

<http://www.dshs.texas.gov/idcu/disease/arboviral/westNile/>

<http://www.texaszika.org/>

<http://www.cdc.gov/zika/index.html>

<http://www.cdc.gov/westnile/index.html>

http://www.collincountytx.gov/healthcare_services/Pages/west_nile.aspx

**Source: Collin County Health Care Services:*

http://www.collincountytx.gov/healthcare_services/Pages/west_nile.aspx

