



## **Mosquito-Borne Disease Prevention**

### **October 9, 2020**

On a weekly basis from May 1<sup>st</sup> through October 31<sup>st</sup> multiple mosquito traps are set in designated locations throughout Fairview and tested for West Nile virus (WNV). A trap is also set and tested weekly for Zika virus. The Town of Fairview contracts with Municipal Mosquito for mosquito management and testing services. In addition to setting and testing mosquito traps, Municipal Mosquito conducts weekly site inspections of property that's owned or maintained by the Town of Fairview where there's potential for larval mosquito development. When appropriate and necessary, larvicide treatments are applied.

Until recently the Town hasn't had a mosquito trap test pool come back positive for WNV since October 2018. Two different mosquito traps located in areas east of Country Club Road recently produced WNV positive test pools. These locations were immediately treated with additional larvicide and are being closely monitored. With temperatures starting to drop and mosquito season nearing its end, cities should start seeing a decrease in WNV positive mosquito test pools.

It's important to protect you and your family from the health risks of diseases spread by mosquitoes. Fairview residents should take precautions at home or when travelling to areas known to have mosquito-borne illnesses. Preventing mosquito breeding and bites is the best way to protect you and your family. The DSHS recommends that property owners take the following steps to prevent mosquitoes from breeding:

- At least weekly, empty or remove trash cans, buckets, old tires, pots, plant saucers, and other containers that hold water.
- Keep gutters clear of debris and standing water.
- Remove standing water around structures and from flat roofs.
- Change water in pet dishes daily.
- Rinse and scrub vases and other indoor water containers weekly.
- Change water in wading pools and bird baths several times a week.
- Use mosquito dunks with larvicide for water that can't be emptied or covered.
- Keep backyard pools and hot tubs properly chlorinated and free of debris.
- Cover trash containers.
- Water lawns and gardens carefully so water does not stand for several days.
- Screen rain barrels and openings to water tanks or cisterns.

- Treat front and back door areas of homes with residual insecticides if mosquitoes are abundant nearby.
- If mosquito problems persist, consider pesticide applications for vegetation around the home.

To prevent you or your family from being bitten by infected mosquitoes, the DSHS recommends taking the following steps:

- Wear [Environmental Protection Agency \(EPA\)-registered insect repellents](#). When used as directed, these insect repellents (including those that contain DEET) are proven safe and effective, even for pregnant and breastfeeding women.
- Cover up with long-sleeved shirts and long pants.
- Keep mosquitoes out by keeping doors and windows closed and/or installing window screens.

For more information on mosquito-borne disease prevention please access the webpage links for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and DSHS provided below.

**CDC Mosquito Information:** <https://www.cdc.gov/mosquitoes/index.html>

**DSHS Mosquito Information:** <https://dshs.texas.gov/texasmosquitoes/>

