



HEALTH DISTRICT ANNOUNCES CONFIRMED WEST NILE VIRUS CASE

WACO, TEXAS (August 29, 2024) — Waco-McLennan Public Health confirms one case of West Nile virus in McLennan County. This is the first case since 2020. The Health District is investigating and will follow established monitoring protocols. The person is an adult male McLennan County resident with no known travel history.

West Nile Virus is primarily transmitted to humans through the bite of an infected mosquito. While most people infected with the virus do not experience symptoms, some may develop mild flu-like symptoms such as fever, headache, body aches, or rash. In rare cases, particularly among the elderly and individuals with weakened immune systems, the virus can lead to more severe neurological illnesses, including encephalitis or meningitis.

The Health District also recommends the following preventive measures.

- Use EPA-registered insect repellents.
- Wear long sleeves and pants, especially during dawn and dusk when mosquitoes are most active.
- Install or repair screens on windows and doors to keep mosquitoes outside.
- Eliminate standing water in gutters, flowerpots, bird baths, and other areas where mosquitoes can breed.

Residents are encouraged to report any areas of stagnant water that has been present for a week or longer, as these can be indicators of increased mosquito activity, by calling the Health District at (254)750-5464 for assistance. If you are a resident living within the Waco City limits, you can report standing water through the MyWaco app.

"The health and safety of our residents is our top priority. This is the first confirmed West Nile Virus in McLennan County this year. We aim to be proactive and have mosquito repellent available for community members here at the Health District, at no charge, to try and prevent additional infections. If you are experiencing any symptoms, please contact your healthcare provider for testing," said LaShonda Malrey-Horne, Waco-McLennan County Public Health District Director.

For more information about West Nile Virus and mosquito prevention, please visit waco-texas.com/mosquitoes.

The Waco-McLennan County Public Health District strives to create the healthiest county in Texas where all people can live, work, play, and thrive by improving the health and well-being of the citizens and environment of our county. For more information about the Health District, visit wacomclennanphd.org.

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