



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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West Nile Virus Precautions

New Braunfels, Texas — The City of New Braunfels is working in conjunction with Comal and Guadalupe County officials to foster a West Nile virus awareness campaign. West Nile virus infections can cause a mild flu-like illness, or may cause no symptoms at all, but can be more severe in the elderly or people with weakened immune systems. City of New Braunfels Environmental Health Manager Joe Lara has shared the following precautions concerning West Nile virus.

“The most important things you can do to reduce the risk of exposure to West Nile virus is to eliminate mosquito-breeding areas in your environment and limit your exposure to feeding mosquitoes – primarily at dawn and dusk,” said Mr. Lara. “Here are some simple suggestions to eliminate potential mosquito breeding sites around your home and neighborhood. I encourage everyone to be part of the solution and eliminate the insect breeding areas and larva before they reach the airborne stage.”

- Do not allow water to accumulate in the saucers of flowerpots, cemetery urns, or in pet dishes for more than two days
- Change the water in birdbaths and wading pools at least once a week – turn them over when not in use
- Fill or drain puddles, ditches and swampy areas
- Check for trapped water in plastic or canvas tarps used to cover boats or pools, and arrange the tarp to drain the water
- Get rid of tin cans, old tires, buckets, unused plastic swimming pools or other containers that collect and hold water
- Clean debris from rain gutters, remove standing water from flat roofs, and repair leaks around faucets and air conditioners
- Consider the use an approved insect repellent when outside and wear long sleeves and pants at dawn and dusk when mosquitoes are most active

It is important to note that the risk of someone becoming infected with West Nile is very low. Even in areas where the virus is circulating, very few mosquitoes are infected with the virus. Even if the mosquito is infected, less than 1% of people who get bitten and become infected will get severely ill.

The City of New Braunfels has mosquito control service assistance available for public drainage areas and waterways. If you are concerned about a location having the potential for mosquito breeding call 830-221-4030 between 7:00 am and 4:00pm Monday –Friday and have the street address of the area of concern available when you call.

For additional information, follow the related link at www.nbtexas.org/mosquitoes.

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