



Bell County Public Health District
<http://www.bellcountyhealth.org>

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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Mosquito Sample Tests Positive for West Nile Virus in Temple, Texas

A mosquito sample in Temple has tested positive for the West Nile Virus. The West Nile Virus is transmitted in Texas by the *Culex Quinquefasciatus* mosquito. Lab results confirming the positive test result were reported to the Bell County Public Health District on Tuesday, September 20.

The positive mosquito samples were collected from a residential area located East of Interstate 35 and West of 31st Street between Avenue K and Avenue T. Test results suggest at least some of the *Culex* mosquito population in this area are carrying the West Nile Virus. Bell County Public Health District has had no reported cases of West Nile Virus among Temple residents this year. Frequently healthy people do not experience symptoms of the virus so most cases go unreported. Symptoms include: headaches, fever, body aches, a rash near the bite site and joint pain. A feeling of fatigue and weakness can last for weeks. A small percent of people experience more severe symptoms that include: stiff neck, a high fever, sleepiness, disorientation, coma and paralysis.

Bell County Public Health District wishes to remind Bell County Residents to be vigilant about mosquito bite prevention and mosquito habitat reduction around their homes. Protect yourself and your family against the West Nile Virus by following the recommendations such as the 4 ds:

- **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, and
- **Dress** in long sleeves and pants when outdoors.
- **Dusk and Dawn** - *Culex* mosquitoes are most active at dusk and dawn, protect yourself by reducing your time outdoors when mosquitoes are most active.

Bell County Public Health District is working with Temple officials to reduce mosquito breeding habitats in Temple. For more information on the West Nile Virus and how to best protect you and your family from mosquito borne disease go to www.bellcountyhealth.org.