



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 near Bartlett

A mosquito sample near Bartlett tested positive for the West Nile Virus. Lab results from the Texas Department of State Health Services confirmed the sample on Tuesday, August 16. The sample was collected by Williamson County and Cities Health District which has public health jurisdiction for the Southern half of the City of Bartlett. The species of mosquito that tested positive was a *Culex quinquefasciatus*, (Southern House Mosquito) which can carry the West Nile Virus.

Bell County Public Health District is working in cooperation with the City of Bartlett and Williamson County and Cities Health District to conduct additional mosquito surveillance in the area. Enhanced mosquito control efforts and increased public health information about mosquito borne disease and bite prevention will begin.

Mosquitoes breed in standing or stagnant water. Eliminating places where mosquitoes can breed, and reducing the chance of getting bitten by mosquitoes are the most effective ways to minimize exposure to West Nile Virus. Bell County Public Health District recommends the 3Ds of mosquito safety:

- **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.

There has been one reported human cases of West Nile Virus in Bell County since June, 2016. West Nile Virus should not be confused with other mosquito-borne illnesses. 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.