



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 9, 2024

The City of Gainesville

Mosquito Pool Test Triggers New Three-Week Monitoring Period

Gainesville, TX— Another mosquito pool, located on the 300 block of S Chestnut, tested positive for West Nile virus in Gainesville, TX per a report released during the last week of August. These findings initiate a new three-week monitoring period, during which Gainesville remains at a medium risk level for West Nile virus transmission.

In response to the positive test, Gainesville officials are continuing the larvicide program aimed at controlling the mosquito population and reducing the risk of West Nile virus transmission to residents. If positive tests continue for three weeks in a row, the City will escalate to spraying in accordance with high-risk level protocols.

The previous positive test results were reported on July 16 and August 1. There is more time between positive test results, and fewer pools that test positive during a given testing. All of this implies that the city's current mitigation efforts are working in combating the spread of West Nile Virus in our community.

The larvicide program involves placing of mosquito dunks, a safe and effective method of mosquito control, in public areas. This proactive measure, targeting mosquito larvae in standing water, is designed to curb the growth of the mosquito population before they become a high-risk threat.

There is no vaccine or specific antiviral treatment for West Nile Virus available at this time. Residents are encouraged to take personal precautions to protect themselves from mosquito bites. These include:

- **DUSK & DAWN:** Avoid being outside when mosquitos are most active.
- **DRESS:** Wear protective clothing. Wear long sleeves, long pants, and socks when mosquitos are most active, typically dawn and dusk.
- **DRAIN:** Eliminate standing water. Remove standing water around your home, such as in flowerpots, gutters, buckets, and other containers to reduce mosquito breeding sites. Keep swimming pools clean and properly chlorinated, and stock ornamental ponds with mosquito-eating fish.
- **DEET:** Use insect repellent. Apply insect repellent containing DEET when outdoors. Picaridin and other protective ingredients could also work, but DEET is considered the most effective option.



The City of Gainesville will continue to monitor mosquito populations and conduct weekly testing for West Nile Virus. Updates will be provided to the public as necessary. The City coordinates testing with Cooke County Emergency Management. Testing occurs with the Public Health Laboratory Division of the Texas Department of State Health Services.

For more information on the West Nile Virus and mosquito control efforts, please visit <https://gainesville.tx.us/537/West-Nile-Virus-Prevention>.

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