



City of Murphy
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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Captured mosquito tests positive for WNV within City *No human cases reported in Murphy or surrounding area*

MURPHY (July 17, 2021) A mosquito trapped in Murphy has tested positive for West Nile Virus, and has been reported to area health officials, according to Tim Rogers, Director of Public Services.

“This is the first insect to test positive of the several dozen that we have trapped since we started collecting them several weeks ago. While we are certainly not the first community in the area to capture an infected insect, it is nevertheless a cause for some concern,” he said.

The mosquito, one of many trapped and tested throughout the City, was collected on July 16 from a snare located along the creek bed south of the Windy Hill Farms Subdivision. This location is near the intersection of FM 544 and the Kansas City Southern railroad crossing.

“Because of the detection, the City will begin aggressive treatment of the affected area with larvicides. The larvicides do not eliminate the adult insects but are effective in killing the insects that have not reached maturity. This, we anticipate, will remove an entire generation of mosquitoes from the area,” said Rogers.

While no human infections have been reported in Murphy or the surrounding area, City officials warn residents to be vigilant against the disease by practicing the 5Ds of prevention.

These include:

- DRAIN all standing water, or apply insecticide dunks where water cannot be drained;
- DAWN and DUSK are when mosquitoes are most active;
- DRESS in long sleeves and pants during these high activity periods;
- DEET-based insecticides work best;
- DOOR and window screens should be checked for repairs and fixed.

“We may still detect more insects carrying the West Nile Virus, as our active capture and testing procedures will continue. Unfortunately, we are just now entering the high season for mosquito infestation, so practicing these prevention methods is critical, especially for young children and the elderly,” he said.

Mosquito trapping will continue throughout the remainder of the high activity season, perhaps well into September. Residents who may suspect being infected should immediately report to their doctor or a medical facility.

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ABOUT MURPHY -- Murphy is a fast-growing community located in Collin County. The population is approximately 20,010, generally characterized as highly educated with a median household income well above the state average. With more than 80 percent of the land developed, the community is dominated by single-family residences. City planners strive to preserve a family-oriented community with a strong sense of place. Money Magazine has dubbed Murphy as the 27th Best Place to Live in America for small cities, and D Magazine placed Murphy as the fifth best suburb in the 2014 list, where it has consistently ranked in the top 10.