



City of Murphy
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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 8, 2021

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Positive WNV results found in two creek bed samples

MURPHY (September 8, 2021) While no human infections have yet been reported in the Murphy and surrounding areas, two additional positive results for West Nile Virus have been detected within the City.

Officials with the City, in cooperation with the Texas Department of State Health Services, announce the detection of the presence of the disease in some mosquito specimens captured on Tuesday, Aug. 31, one near Lonesome Dove Trail and the other near Raintree Drive.

Two previous positive detections had already been discovered among the dozens of mosquito samples taken throughout the City's various trapping locations, established at the start of active mosquito season. One of the two latest positive results was collected from a snare located along the creek bed west of Lonesome Dove Trail, the other from a snare along a similar creek bed east of Raintree Drive.

"The fact that we're encountering positive detections near creek beds adds to the importance of residents knowing that the creeks are high activity areas, and anyone in the area should take the appropriate steps to protect themselves," says Director of Public Services Tim Rogers. "Just as importantly, though, residents need to understand that any standing water, like that found in creeks, can become a prime breeding area for these carriers."

The area west of Lonesome Dove was recently sprayed with a larvicide following a prior positive sample from that collection site, however rain and unfavorable windy conditions delayed the procedure slightly, allowing the maturing of larva which resulted in the positive result. The spraying at that site is expected to be effective going forward.

Meanwhile, City staff has contacted health officials from the state and Collin County and will soon contract a pest control service to spray the area east of Raintree Drive as soon as possible, weather permitting.

The Texas Department of State Health Services has more information on the West Nile Virus at <https://www.dshs.texas.gov/idcu/disease/arboviral/westnile/>.

Eliminating opportunities for mosquitos to breed and bite are the best ways to provide protection for family members. Implementing the Five Ds of Prevention can be very effective. These include:

- Drain all standing water, or apply insecticide dunks where water cannot be drained;
- Dress appropriately when outdoors, long sleeves and pants during high activity periods;
- Dawn and dusk are when mosquitoes are most active;
- DEET-based insecticides work best;
- Door and window screens should be checked for repairs and fixed.

Additional tips can be found here: <http://www.murphytx.org/635/Mosquito-Abatement>. Trapping and testing of mosquitoes will continue throughout the remainder of the high activity season and into the fall. Residents who may suspect becoming infected should immediately report to their doctor or 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.