

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### WEST NILE VIRUS POSITIVE MOSQUITO TRAP SAMPLE REPORTED IN BARTLETT

September 1, 2023 – A sample of mosquitoes collected in Bartlett has tested positive for West Nile virus. This testing is part of Williamson County and Cities Health District's (WCCHD) Integrated Vector Management program which through surveillance, control, prevention, and education, aims to prevent human infection of mosquito-borne diseases. The positive test was indicated in lab results received on 8/31/2023 from the Texas Department of State Health Services lab in Austin.

The positive sample was collected from a trap site near Mt. Aratat Community Park on 8/29/23. A total of nineteen West Nile virus positive mosquito traps have been reported in the 2023 season in Williamson County. To date, 1 human case of West Nile virus has been reported.

[Symptoms of infection](#) may include fever, headache, and body aches, a skin rash on the trunk of the body, and swollen lymph nodes. Those age 50 and older and/or with compromised immune systems are at a higher risk for severe symptoms, which may include stiffness, disorientation, coma, tremors, vision loss, paralysis, and in rare cases, death.

Mosquitoes breed in standing water, needing as little as one teaspoon. By draining all sources of standing water in and around your property, you reduce the number of places mosquitoes can lay their eggs and breed.

#### What you can do:

- WCCHD encourages residents in affected areas to be a part of the solution by eliminating insect breeding areas and larvae before they develop into adult, flying mosquitoes. Standing water can be treated with EPA-approved larvicides that are available for retail purchase.
- Larvicides are products used to kill immature mosquitoes before they become adults. Larvicides are applied directly to water sources that hold mosquito eggs, larvae, or pupae. When used consistently, larvicides can help reduce the overall mosquito burden by limiting the number of mosquitoes that are produced, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).
- **Drain** standing water in flowerpots, 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-registered insect repellent, and

- **Dress** in long sleeves and pants when outdoors.

For more information, go to the WCCHD website at [www.wcchd.org](http://www.wcchd.org) or visit the Texas Department of State Health Services West Nile website at [txwestnile.org](http://txwestnile.org).

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The Williamson County and Cities Health District (WCCHD), nationally accredited by the Public Health Accreditation Board, works to protect, promote, and improve the health of all people in Williamson County. WCCHD provides critical public health services including retail food inspections, clinical services like vaccinations and well-woman exams, epidemiological and emergency responses to disease outbreaks, mosquito surveillance, WIC nutrition benefits and education, and administers the county indigent healthcare program. Learn more at [www.wcchd.org](http://www.wcchd.org).