



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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City Entered Risk Level 2 of Mosquito Surveillance and Response Plan

Citizen Involvement Essential to Eliminating Breeding Grounds

DENTON, TX, May 3, 2019 – On May 1, the City of Denton entered Risk Level 2 – Enhanced Response of the Mosquito Surveillance and Response Plan. Typically, Risk Level 2 is triggered before the mosquito season is underway and centers on activities citizens can do to help the City control the mosquito population. At this Risk Level, the probability of human outbreak of the West Nile virus is low. Strategies for protecting human health and methods for minimizing mosquito populations are the main control measures emphasized under Risk Level 2.

The City's Mosquito Surveillance and Response Plan is a comprehensive plan aimed at reducing the risk of illness due to West Nile virus. City personnel have made reducing mosquito breeding grounds a priority and are aggressively working to eliminate standing water in public drainage ditches. Water that cannot be eliminated is treated with a biological mosquito larvicide (Bti). The City of Denton and the University of North Texas are also conducting routine surveys of adult mosquitoes. The collected mosquitoes will be identified and screened for the presence of viruses.

While the City is working proactively to control mosquito populations and lower the threat of West Nile virus, citizen involvement is essential.

"Mosquito control efforts in past seasons have been successful, which would not have been possible without the source reduction and larvicide efforts of Denton citizens," said Kenneth Banks, Utilities General Manager.

Eliminating breeding grounds is the most important and effective mosquito prevention measure. Help the City control Denton's mosquito population by eliminating standing water from these and other areas around your property.

- Open trash/recycling carts
- Boats and pool covers
- Fountains and bird baths
- Clogged rain gutters
- Low areas
- Water bowls for pets
- Buckets and barrels
- Flower pots and saucers
- Leaky hoses
- Wagons and other toys
- Ponds
- Neglected pools
- Tires
- Piles of trash or debris

The City of Denton Water Utilities Department has a limited supply of Bti briquettes that residents can pick up in limited quantities (two per resident) while the supply lasts. Residents will be

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required to show their driver's license or a current City of Denton utility bill to prove Denton residency.

“Eliminating standing water and application of larvicide are essential for successfully reducing mosquito populations, and Denton’s residents play an important role in that effort,” said Deborah Viera, Assistant Director of Environmental Services.

City Bti distribution locations:

- Water Administration – Located at 901-A Texas St. in the Utility Service Center; Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- City of Denton Composting – Located at 1100 S. Mayhill Rd. in the Pecan Creek Water Reclamation Facility; Tuesday through Saturday from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Detailed information about the steps residents can take to reduce the mosquito population and increase their protection against West Nile virus can be found at www.cityofdenton.com. Other resources include the Texas Department of Health Services website at www.dshs.state.tx.us and the Denton County Health Department website at www.dentoncounty.com/wnv. To report standing water to the City of Denton, visit the Engage Denton webpage at www.engagedenton.com.

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