



Remember the Five D's of Mosquito Protection



- **DRAIN** - all areas of standing water
- **DEET** - use insect repellents
- **DRESS** - protectively with long sleeve and pants
- **DUSK/DAWN** - limit outdoor exposure at dusk and dawn
- **DOORS** - Keep door and window screens in good repair

FAQ's

Q: How can I protect myself against mosquito bites?

A: *The Texas Department of State Health Services recommends that screens on doors and windows be in good condition and that you use personal protection. Personal protection includes dressing to minimize exposed skin, wearing insect repellent and avoiding the outdoors during the hours of dawn and dusk (6 a.m. to 9 a.m. or 7 p.m. to 10 p.m.) which is when mosquitoes that have been identified as possibly carrying the disease are out. It also includes identifying areas of your property that may have stagnant water.*

Q: What insect repellents should I use?

A: *The Center for Disease Control (CDC) recommends adults wear repellent that contain 30 percent of the ingredient DEET to be most effective against the mosquitoes that carry WNV. However, lesser amounts of DEET products may be used with repeat applications during outdoor time periods as specified on the [CDC website](#).*

Q: Can small children apply chemicals to their skin? What is recommended?

A: *The CDC states that precautions should be taken with insect repellent for children of certain ages. Parents with questions or concerns about repellents should consult their family physician. Most doctors can direct you to other resources that explain alternatives to the active ingredients found in most repellents.*

Q: How can I find out what cases have been reported?

A: *Please visit the [Texas Department of State Health Services](#) West Nile Virus website and/or [Dallas County Health & Human Services website](#) (DCHHS) for information regarding this area.*

Q: Will the City of Sachse/DCHHS monitor areas on private property?

A: *No, the City of Sachse/DCHHS may only monitor the areas that are publicly owned and maintained. Private landowners are responsible for all maintenance on their own property.*

Q: What is the City of Sachse doing about West Nile Virus?

A: *The City/DCHHS treats stagnant water with a larvicide. This is an integral part of the approach recommended by the CDC in minimizing the number of mosquitoes in our area. The DCHHS also conducts a mosquito surveillance program by trapping and testing mosquitoes for West Nile Virus. Mosquitoes are a direct indicator of human illness risk when it comes to West Nile Virus.*

Q: When does the City/DCHHS spray, what area(s) will be sprayed and at what times?

A: *The application truck will drive city streets from 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. on the designated day according to the targeted spraying map with weather permitting. The City will notify citizens before spraying.*

Q: What precautions should I take when the City does spray?

A: It is recommended you stay indoors during application, bring pets indoors and refresh outdoor animal water containers the next morning. Notify the City/DCHHS if you have an outdoor pond or water feature that contains aquatic wildlife.

Q: What can I do to help eliminate mosquitoes from my yard?

A: At this time, the Texas Department of State Health Services recommends residents not allow water to stagnate. Citizens can help by removing sources of stagnant water on their property. Areas to check include french drains, gutters, old tires, flowerpots, trash containers, swimming pools, bird baths and pet bowls. Citizens may actively treat areas of stagnant water on their property, not including creeks and other protected waterways. Mosquito larvicidal treatments can be purchased at feed stores and home improvement centers.

Q: How do mosquitoes get into my house?

A: Mosquitoes are singularly adept at entering houses through any portal available, be it through broken window or door screens, attic soffits or through bathroom exhaust vents. A favorite resting spot is the garage, so take care to keep resting female mosquitoes from coming into the house through the garage.

Q: What should I do if I see a dead bird?

A: Birds die from many causes. West Nile Virus primarily impacts crows and blue jays. Plastic gloves should be worn and hands washed after disposal. Carcasses may be disposed in your regular collection trash can after it has been placed in a bag and secured.

Q: Will birds be shipped for testing?

A: As recommended by the Texas Department of State Health Services, the City/DCHHS does not ship birds for testing. Birds are dead end hosts. Efforts are concentrated on mosquito surveillance and testing at this time.

Q: I have a creek that backs up to my house. Will mosquitoes breed in the water?

A: Flowing creeks and waterways generally do not contain mosquito larvae.

Q: How long do mosquitoes live?

A: Lifespan vary by species, most adult female mosquitoes live 2-3 weeks.

Q: Can we eliminate mosquitoes?

A: No, the goal of a mosquito control program is to reduce adult mosquito populations to a level that minimizes the possibility of people and animals getting sick from diseases associated with mosquitoes, and reduces biting to a level that most people find tolerable.

Q: Why are there so many mosquitoes some years?

A: A lot depends on our weather following heavy rainfall in sharp contrast to the previous few years in which we experienced a drought in Sachse and Dallas area. This resulted in substantial standing water, which is habitat for mosquitoes to develop.