



JULY 28, 2023

COMMERCE, TEXAS - As part of routine monitoring for mosquito-borne diseases, including the West Nile virus, the City of Commerce has identified two positive mosquitos for West Nile Virus in the 75428- zip code. One mosquito tested positive in the 1000 block of Bois d'Arc Street, which is section B of the [city's mosquito spraying map](#) and another tested positive in the 100 block of MLK Drive in section C. The city will increase spraying in these areas effective immediately. As a reminder, the chemicals are of low toxicity to humans and animals, but we still encourage citizens to avoid direct contact. Bring pet bowls inside during days when spraying occurs in your area and do not allow children to play outside in areas when spraying occurs.

Although no human cases of West Nile virus have been identified at this time in or around our area, the positive mosquito pool indicates the virus is present in our community.

[West Nile virus](#) is the most common mosquito-borne disease in the United States. It is typically spread to people by the bite of an infected mosquito. According to the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#), West Nile virus is not spread through coughing, sneezing or touching other infected people or live animals.

Approximately 8 of 10 people infected with West Nile **do not** develop symptoms. Approximately 1 in 5 people infected with West Nile develop symptoms such as headache, body aches, joint pains, vomiting, diarrhea or rash. Of those infected, few develop further serious illnesses, usually affecting the central nervous system. **People over 60 years of age are at greater risk** for serious illness, as are those with medical conditions such as cancer, diabetes, hypertension or kidney disease. Organ transplant recipients are also at higher risk for developing more severe illness as a result of being infected with West Nile.

Know the dangers and fight the bite with the “four Ds”:

- **Drain** standing water: Mosquitoes breed in standing water and need as little as one teaspoon. Emptying water that accumulates in toys, tires, trash cans, buckets, clogged rain gutters and plant pots will deny mosquitoes a place to lay their eggs and reproduce.
- **Dusk to dawn:** Although different species of mosquitoes are active at different times of day, the [Culex mosquito](#) that spreads West Nile virus is most active between dusk and dawn.
- **Dress:** Wear pants and long sleeves when you are outside. Wear light-colored, loose-fitting clothing; mosquito-repellent clothing is also available.
- **DEET:** Apply insect repellent: Use an [EPA-registered repellent](#) such as those containing DEET, picaridin, IR3535, oil of lemon eucalyptus, para-menthane-diol or 2-undecanone. Apply on both exposed skin and clothing.

Mosquitoes are present in Central Texas year-round, but the population is largest and most active from May through November. The City of Commerce sprays sections bi-weekly and tests mosquitos weekly for mosquito-borne diseases from May through September at a minimum.

For more information on West Nile virus, visit the Texas Department of State and Health Services at <https://www.dshs.texas.gov/mosquito-borne-diseases/west-nile-virus> or the Center for Disease Control and Prevention at <https://www.cdc.gov/westnile/index.html>.