

## **Rockwall County Health Authority Urges Preventative Measures to Reduce West Nile Exposure**

**Joint Press Release:** Rockwall County, City of Rockwall, City of Heath, City of McLendon-Chisholm, City of Fate, City of Royse City

**August 10, 2012**

Dr. Gary Bonacquisti, Rockwall County Health Authority, has reported that there are confirmed cases of West Nile virus in Rockwall County. Epidemiological tests are being run to determine an accurate number of cases. At this time, Dr. Bonacquisti encourages residents to continue with personal protection measures to reduce their exposure to the virus.

Dr. David Lensch, Health Officer for the City of Rockwall, and Dr. Bonacquisti, Health Officer for Rockwall County are working together to assist the respective entities. Dr. Lensch advises that prevention through the recommended precautions is of greatest importance, adding that those with viral symptoms, including fever and headache, should consider testing.

### **To reduce exposure to West Nile virus:**

- Use an approved insect repellent every time you go outside and follow the instructions on the label. Approved repellents are those that contain DEET, picaridin or oil of lemon eucalyptus.
- Regularly drain standing water, including water that collects in empty cans, tires, buckets, clogged rain gutters and saucers under potted plants. Mosquitoes breed in stagnant water.
- Wear long sleeves and pants at dawn and dusk when mosquitoes are most active.
- Use air conditioning or make sure there are screens on all doors and windows to keep mosquitoes from entering the home.

No further information has been made available at this time. However, Dr. Bonacquisti is working with the Department of State Health Services to determine the number of confirmed cases and the location of the patient's residence. Your health care provider may be able to assist you if have any health-related concerns.

**For additional information, visit the CDC website at**

[http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/wnv\\_factsheet.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/wnv_factsheet.htm)

City of Rockwall: 972-771-7761

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City of McLendon-Chisholm: 972-524-2077

City of Fate: 972-771-4601

City of Royse City: 972-636-2250

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