



# Press

# Release



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**For Immediate Release**

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## **Mosquitos - "Fight the Bite"**

Wichita Falls, Texas – The Wichita Falls-Wichita County Public Health District has seen an increase of mosquito complaints. At this time, the Health District is primarily seeing mosquito species that breed in floodwaters. As we move into summer and dryer weather, we should see a decrease in these types of mosquitoes; however, mosquitoes in general are here to stay and will likely remain active and continue to breed until nighttime temperatures are consistently below 50°F this fall. Standing water is necessary for mosquitoes to complete their lifecycle therefore, increased rainfall results in a boom in the mosquito population.

The Wichita Falls-Wichita County Public Health District is actively treating for mosquitoes. Daytime workers assess and treat known mosquito breeding sites on public property, and spray for adult mosquitoes in the evenings, when weather conditions are appropriate. Wind speeds must be under 10mph and rainfall cannot be expected. If residents have an area of concern in their neighborhood, complaints and spray requests can be made at (940) 761-7890.

The Wichita Falls-Wichita County Public Health District encourages citizens to follow the four D's to help "Fight the Bite:"

1. **Dump/Drain:** Be sure to dump or drain and wipe the sides of containers (such as pet bowls, rain barrels, children's toys, or tarps, etc.) that hold water. Mosquitoes start their life cycle in the water and many species lay their eggs above the waterline on the inside of containers, which is why it is important to wipe the sides.
2. **Deet:** If you are going outside, wear an EPA approved insect repellent. Be sure to follow the label instructions on application and reapplication. Consult your pediatrician about at what age it is appropriate to use an insect repellent on young children and what type they recommend.
3. **Dress:** Wear long sleeves and long pants if you are going to be outside, especially if you are doing an activity that will stir up mosquitoes resting in the grass such as yard work or outdoor sports.
4. **Dusk/Dawn and all Day:** Mosquitoes are generally considered most active at dusk and dawn so when you are able to, limit your outdoor activities at those times. However, you should follow proper mosquito precautions any time you are outdoors no matter what time of day.

Some mosquito species that are present in Wichita County have the capability of spreading diseases such as West Nile Virus, but most, including most of the floodwater species being seen right now, are considered a nuisance.

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