



For Immediate Release

October 5, 2020 12:00 PM

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Kingsville City Health Department Reports Negative Mosquito Pools in Kingsville

KINGSVILLE, TX – The City Health Department has been responding to the detection of positive Saint Louis Encephalitis mosquito pools, initially detected in samples sent to the Texas Department of State Health Services lab in Austin for arbovirus testing on August 26th. Since that date, a total of four sites contained positive mosquito pools. Kingsville City Health Director Emilio Garcia is notifying the public that after trapping mosquitos in seven areas across the city, there were **no infected mosquitos** detected in any of the sites that previously contained positive pools or in other sites tested as a precaution.

All negative samples were collected September 10th and September 29th. In an abundance of caution, the City Health Department additionally sprayed for mosquitos September 29th through October 1st.

City Staff will trap mosquitos for testing once again in about two weeks to make sure mosquito pools remain negative for any detectable arbovirus. “We remain hopeful that our latest mosquito spraying operation and the cooler weather will keep mosquitos at bay, however, we will trap and send mosquitos for testing once again to assure that the community remains safe,” said Garcia “as always, the community can help as well by following precautions.”

The community is urged to do their part by following previously recommended mosquito bite prevention practices; avoid outdoor activity at dawn and dusk when mosquitos are most active. For outdoor activity during these time frames, the health department recommends residents wear long pants and long sleeves and use a mosquito repellent that contains DEET. You can also help prevent mosquitos breeding around your home and business by clearing any standing water on your property. Buckets, tires and bird feeders facilitate mosquito breeding. It’s a good idea to keep your lawn maintained to curb mosquito breeding. Neighboring counties have also detected positive SLE mosquito pools this summer, so, it is suggested residents follow mosquito bite prevention practices whether at home or visiting neighboring communities.

You may get the most up-to-date and accurate information on the official City of Kingsville Facebook page.

Media may direct inquiries to Janine Reyes, City of Kingsville PIO at (361) 455-5946.

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