



For Immediate Release

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Contact: Janine Reyes, City of Kingsville PIO

Kingsville City Health Department Mosquito Samples Test Negative for West Nile Virus

KINGSVILLE, TX – The City of Kingsville Health Department traps mosquitoes monthly to send samples to the Texas Department of State Health Services lab in Austin for arbovirus testing. Once a positive pool is found, samples are collected weekly to test for arborviruses until there is no further threat to the public. Kingsville City Health Director Emilio Garcia began notifying the public of the detection of West Nile Virus infected mosquito pools on August 19th of this year. This was the first time West Nile Virus was ever detected in mosquitoes in Kleberg County.

In response to the detection of the West Nile Virus, crews immediately began to spray the impacted locations and continuously collected samples for the Texas DSHS lab in Austin who performs testing. West Nile infected mosquito pools were previously found at 730 E. Warren, 803 E Ragland and 724 E. Huisache.

The City Health Department is pleased to report that the most recent batch of mosquitoes tested negative for any arbovirus. “While this is a great indication that our crews’ treatment of the areas impacted by West Nile Virus infected mosquitoes has reduced the threat to our community, it does not confirm there are no longer infected mosquitoes in our area,” said Garcia, “we ask our citizens to practice mosquito bite prevention practices as added precaution.” The City of Kingsville Health Department will continue frequent arbovirus testing conducted by the Texas Department of State Health Services in partnership with our staff who traps mosquito pools for testing.”

The community is urged to follow previously recommended mosquito bite prevention practices by avoiding outdoor activity at dawn and dusk when mosquitoes 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 mosquitoes 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 West Nile Virus 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.

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