Harris County

HCPHES

Public Health & Environmental Services

www.hcphes.org

Mosquito Season in Full Swing…Fight the Bite!

As the temperature outside rises, so does the mosquito population. Warm weather means more mosquitoes, and with it comes an increased risk of West Nile Virus (WNV).

Harris County Public Health & Environmental Services (HCPHES) Mosquito Control encourages people to eliminate breeding habitats from their property and to take appropriate precautions to avoid being bitten by disease-carrying mosquitoes.

Mosquito-Proof Your Property

- Don't "feed" the storm drains. Sweep up lawn clippings, leaves and tree limbs.
- Remove/empty any containers that can hold water such as flowerpots and toys.
- Change water in birdbaths at least once a week as well as pet water bowls.
- Keep rain gutters free of debris.
- Make sure screens are in good condition.

Prevent Mosquito Breeding in Boats

- Cover your boat or store in a covered place.
- Drain any standing water and make sure the bilge pump is working.
- Turn over canoes, kayaks and small boats to store upside down.

Personal Protection

- If possible, wear long pants and long sleeved shirts when outdoors particularly at dawn and dusk.
- When outdoors, use an insect repellent containing DEET, Picaridin, oil of lemon eucalyptus or IR3535 and apply as directed on the label.

Most people who are infected with West Nile virus show no or only mild symptoms such as: low grade fever and headache. More severe signs and symptoms can include: high fever, stiff neck, disorientation, encephalitis, and rarely, death. If you think you have been infected with the West Nile Virus, contact your family physician.

Household pets can be exposed to West Nile Virus, too. Contact your veterinarian for more information.

For more information, call HCPHES Mosquito Control at 713.440.4800 or visit their website at www.hcphes.org/mc.

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