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**September 13, 2018**

**NEWS RELEASE**

## **Fifth Case of West Nile Confirmed in El Paso this Season**

**EL PASO, Texas** – The number of confirmed West Nile Virus cases in El Paso continues to rise. Officials with the Department of Public Health announced today that a fifth case of West Nile Virus involves a man in his 70's who lives in the Mission Valley. He has underlying medical conditions, but is recovering from the infection.

The following are the cases confirmed in El Paso so far this season:

	1.	Male	20's	No Underlying Medical Conditions
	2.	Male	70's	Underlying Medical Conditions
	3.	Female	60's	Underlying Medical Conditions
	4.	Male	Teen	No Underlying Medical Conditions
NEW	5.	Male	70's	Underlying Medical Conditions

"We continue to recommend that residents practice mosquito bite prevention as a way to prevent this and other vector borne diseases," said Fernando Gonzalez, Lead Epidemiologist. "They can call 3-1-1 to report large areas of standing water that may be breeding mosquitoes and the Environmental Services Department will investigate and remedy the situation."

There were 14 human cases of West Nile confirmed in El Paso last year and the most recent deaths associated with the disease were two deaths in 2015. The following precautions can be used to help prevent the virus.

- DEET - Use insect repellents that contain DEET when outdoors.
- DRESS - Wear long sleeves, long pants, and socks when outdoors.
- DUSK and DAWN – Although mosquitoes associated with other diseases such as Zika can be active throughout the day; residents should take extra care during peak mosquito biting hours (from dusk to dawn) or consider avoiding outdoor activities during these times.
- DRAIN – Drain standing water from flowerpots, gutters, buckets, pool covers, pet water dishes, and birdbaths.

For more information on the Public Health Department, call 2-1-1 or visit [www.EPHealth.com](http://www.EPHealth.com) or [www.EPSalud.com](http://www.EPSalud.com).

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**Media Contact: Rick Isaías**  
**Lead Public Affairs Coordinator**  
**Mobile: 915.355.6611**  
**Office: 915.212.1077**  
**City of El Paso, Texas**

*Promote Transparent and Consistent Communication Among All Members of the Community*