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**August 30, 2018**

**NEWS RELEASE**

## Department of Public Health Confirms Third Case of West Nile in El Paso

**EL PASO, Texas** – The Department of Public Health has confirmed a third case of West Nile Virus this season in El Paso.

The patient is a woman in her mid-60's who lives in the Mission Valley. She 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
NEW	3.	Female	60's	Underlying Medical Conditions

"The upcoming Labor Day weekend is typically a time for the community to spend extended periods of time outdoors and we need residents to protect themselves from mosquitoes that carry West Nile," said Department of Public Health Lead Epidemiologist Fernando Gonzalez. "Please make sure to use insect repellent and do whatever it takes to keep you and your children from being bitten."

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 Department of Public Health is asking residents to help 'fight the bite' by reducing the spread of mosquito borne diseases using these prevention methods:

- 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  
915.212.1077