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# Public Health Officials Report First West Nile Virus of the Season

## Residents Urged to Take Precautions Against Mosquitos

**El Paso, Texas** – The City of El Paso Department of Public Health (DPH) is confirming the community’s first case of Neuroinvasive West Nile Virus Disease.

A man in his 50s is confirmed to have contracted the West Nile Virus (WNV) and developed Neuroinvasive disease and is currently recovering in the hospital.

“The Severe Central Nervous System West Nile Virus disease is extremely dangerous and can lead to potential complications, disability or even death,” said City-County Health Authority Dr. Hector Ocaranza. “The public should continue to be careful and decrease the risk of getting infected with WNV by practicing the four Ds to prevent mosquito bites.”

El Pasoans can help ‘fight the bite’ by following these 4 easy prevention steps:

- **DEET** – Use insect repellents that contain DEET when outdoors.
- **DRESS** – Wear long sleeves, long pants, and socks when outdoors.
- **DUSK & DAWN** – Although mosquitoes associated with WNV 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. After rains or lawn watering, residents should “tip and toss” any standing water they find outside.

Eight out of 10 people infected with the WNV will not develop symptoms. However, 1 in 5 people who are infected develop West Nile fever, an illness that includes a fever and other symptoms such as body aches, joint pain, headache, or a rash. About 1 out of 150 infected people develop severe illness affecting the central nervous system and about 1 out of 10 cases of severe illness are fatal.

People over the age of 60 are at the highest risk of serious illness. Individuals with certain medical conditions, such as cancer, diabetes, hypertension, kidney disease, and people who have received organ transplants are also at high risk.

**Residents can report standing water and mosquito breeding by calling (915) 212-6000.**

For more information and tips visit [EPHealth.com](http://EPHealth.com) under the Emergency Preparedness [Be Climate Ready](#) tab.

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Promoting **Transparent & Consistent Communication**  
Among All Members of the Community

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