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**NEWS
RELEASE**

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City Public Health Officials Report Two Additional Severe West Nile Virus Cases

EL PASO, Texas—The City of El Paso Department of Public Health (DPH) has confirmed two additional cases of severe West Nile Virus (WNV) illness, bringing the total number of severe cases reported in El Paso this year to four.

The latest cases involve a woman in her 70s and a man in his 70s, both of whom have underlying medical conditions.

“West Nile virus continues to pose a serious health risk, particularly for older adults and individuals with underlying medical conditions,” said City-County Health Authority Dr. Hector Ocaranza. “While most people infected with the virus never develop symptoms, severe cases can result in life-threatening neurological complications. We encourage everyone to take simple precautions to reduce mosquito bites and eliminate standing water around their homes.”

Residents are encouraged to follow the Four Ds to help prevent mosquito bites:

- **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 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. After rains or lawn watering, residents should “tip and toss” any standing water they find outside.

Most people infected with West Nile virus do not become sick. About 80 percent never develop symptoms. Approximately 20 percent develop West Nile fever, a mild illness that may include fever, headache, body aches, joint pain, nausea, vomiting, or a rash. About 1 in 150 infected people develop severe neurological illness affecting the brain or spinal cord, and approximately 10 percent of those severe cases are fatal.

Adults age 60 and older, along with people who have certain underlying medical conditions such as cancer, diabetes, hypertension, kidney disease, or weakened immune systems, are at greater risk of developing severe illness.

Residents are also encouraged to install or repair window and door screens to help keep mosquitoes outside. Standing water or potential mosquito breeding sites can be reported by calling 311 or (915) 212-6000.

For additional mosquito prevention information, visit EPHealth.com and select the Be Climate Ready tab. EPHealth.com and select the [Be Climate Ready tab](#).

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