

BURNET COUNTY PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

August 22, 2009

West Nile Virus Update

On August 20, 2009 the following message was received by Health Service Region 7 Zoonosis Control from Jim Schuermann, Staff Epidemiologist for Vectorborne and Zoonotic Diseases, Zoonosis Control Branch, Texas Department of State Health Services.

"DSHS reported one case of WN fever to CDC today. The patient was a 39 year-old male; county of residence was Harris, onset was 8/1/2009. This brings the total number of WN illnesses reported for 2009 to 12, 10 WNND (1 fatal) and two WN fever.

At this time in 2008, the number of WN illnesses reported was 15; Nine WNND cases (none fatal) and six WN fever cases."

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has identified several registered products that provide repellent activity sufficient to help people avoid the bites of disease carrying mosquitoes. Products containing these active ingredients typically provide reasonably long-lasting protection:

DEET (Chemical Name: N,N-diethyl-m-toluamide or N,N-diethyl-3-methyl-benzamide)

Picaridin (KBR 3023, Chemical Name: 2-(2-hydroxyethyl)-1-piperidinecarboxylic acid 1-methylpropyl ester)

Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus* or PMD (Chemical Name: para-Menthane-3,8-diol) the synthesized version of oil of lemon eucalyptus

IR3535 (Chemical Name: 3-[N-Butyl-N-acetyl]-aminopropionic acid, ethyl ester)

EPA characterizes the active ingredients DEET and Picaridin as "conventional repellents" and Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus, PMD, and IR3535 as "biopesticide repellents", which are derived from natural materials.

For more information on repellent active ingredients see
(http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/health/mosquitoes/ai_insectrp.htm).

To monitor current WNV activity in your area, please visit our DSHS Zoonosis Control West Nile webpage. It contains detailed statistics, tables, and maps illustrating up-to-date West Nile virus activity in Texas. <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/idcu/disease/arboviral/westNile/>.

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