

West Nile Virus Strikes Big D

Contributed by Tom McGregor
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Dallas County has just declared a public health emergency due to a West Nile virus outbreak, which has infected 175 people, killing nine individuals.

The Houston Chronicle reports that, "Judge Clay Jenkins instructed the Homeland Security and Emergency Management Department to file a local disaster declaration with the state that will open the door for getting more resources to prevent the spread of the virus, which is transmitted to humans through infected mosquitoes." Dallas County has come to grips with an especially active West Nile season, Houston health officials have already tallied seven cases of the virus, including one death in July of a woman from the Northeastern part of the city.

According to the Houston Chronicle, "health officials across the state urge residents to protect themselves against the virus, including using insect repellents that contain DEET, draining any standing water in the yards, dressing in long, loose and light-colored clothing."

No vaccines can prevent West Nile infections and no medications can treat the disease that is more dangerous to people over 50.

To read the entire article from the Houston Chronicle, link here: Tmcgregordallas@yahoo.com