

## Menacing Mosquitoes

### CITY OF BEDFORD MOSQUITO CONTROL PROGRAM

The City of Bedford works closely with the Tarrant County Public Health Department in a county wide mosquito surveillance program. The participating cities set out mosquito traps for collection. Once collected the samples go to the health department's laboratory for testing of West Nile Virus and St. Louis Encephalitis. Each week five mosquito traps are set within our city limits. If a mosquito pool tests positive the city is notified so that we can take action to notify residents to protect themselves from mosquitoes. If a human case is reported in our city limits, the Tarrant County Health Department notifies us so that we may inform the public to take special precaution to protect themselves.

The City of Bedford's Storm Water Department is responsible surveying our drainage areas for presence of mosquito larva and treating areas as needed on a monthly basis. If mosquito larva is found, they will treat the stagnate water with products such as CoCo Bear which is derived from coconut oil or Naturalar G30 and Vectolex CG granules. Any areas with live fish are not treated because the fish eat the mosquito larva. Creeks are stocked as needed with minnows from the health department to assist in mosquito control. They do not distribute the minnows to the public.

Please call the Public Works Department for more information on our mosquito control program at 817-952-2200.

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### TIPS FROM THE TARRANT COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Adult flying mosquitoes frequently rest in grass, shrubbery, or other foliage. It is the young mosquitoes who need standing water to develop. Remember, mosquitoes breed and multiply in any water that lasts more than four days. Eliminating places where mosquitoes can breed is the best way to control them.

The Tarrant Public Health Department offers the following suggestions to stop raising mosquitoes around your home and yard:

- Get rid of old tires, buckets or any containers that hold standing water or empty them regularly.
- Empty plastic wading pools weekly and store them indoors when not in use.
- Repair leaky pipes and outside faucets.
- Change water in bird baths and scrub them twice each week.
- Empty pets' watering pans daily.
- Put mosquito-eating fish in ponds.
- Clean clogged roof gutters.
- Treat standing water that can't be drained with *Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis* (Bti).
- Stay indoors at dusk and dawn when infected mosquitoes are most active.
- Dress in long sleeves and pants when you're outside.
- Use insect repellent that contains DEET (N, N-diethyl-m-toluamide).
- Drain standing water in your yard and around your house.