

## CORPUS CHRISTI-NUECES COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH DISTRICT



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Press Release

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### HEALTH DISTRICT REPORTS: TWO POOLS OF MOSQUITOES TEST POSITIVE FOR ST. LOUIS ENCEPHALITIS

The Corpus Christi-Nueces County Public Health District received confirmation from the Texas Department of State Health Services late yesterday, of two pools of mosquitoes positive with St. Louis Encephalitis.

Positive mosquitoes were collected from the 2900 Block of Lawton and 4500 Block of Castanon. Regardless of the location of where the positive pools were found, all Nueces County residents should follow preventive measures because mosquitoes are known to fly up to 15 miles or more.

St. Louis Encephalitis is transmitted by the bite of a mosquito, primarily the *Culex* species. There have not been any human cases of St. Louis Encephalitis reported in Nueces County for the past few years.

Annette Rodriguez, M.P.H., Director of Public Health states "Crews will concentrate their treatments in the routes where the positive pools were identified until they receive negative mosquito pool results from the State."

St. Louis Encephalitis is not transmitted from human to human. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), mild infections can occur without apparent symptoms. A severe infection will show signs of headache, high fever, neck stiffness, stupor, disorientation, coma, tremors, occasional convulsions (especially in infants) and spastic (but rarely flaccid) paralysis. Anyone who has symptoms should seek medical care immediately. The severity of symptoms can vary from person to person.

Dr. William Burgin Jr., Local Health Authority for the Health District urges residents to take precautions when outdoors.

“The Health District recommends that residents watch their outdoor activity between dusk and dawn,” states Burgin. “Everyone should practice prevention measures.”

To help reduce risk, residents should practice the **four D’s** which include: **Drain, Dress, DEET and Dusk/Dawn.**

- **Drain** standing water around homes to reduce mosquito hatching grounds.
- **Dress** in pants and long sleeves when outside in mosquito-infested areas, but avoid becoming too hot.
- Apply insect repellent that contains **DEET** (N,N-diethyl-m-toluamide) to exposed skin and to clothing when outdoors. Be sure to follow directions on the label. (For infants less than 12 months consult with your physician.)
- Stay indoors from **Dusk to Dawn**, when mosquitoes are most active if possible.

Dr. Burgin adds residents should remember there are other viruses which mosquitoes can carry and these precautions will protect them from these as well.

Residents can get more Vector Control information by going to [www.ccpublichealth.com](http://www.ccpublichealth.com)

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