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OKC-COUNTY HEALTH CONFIRMS TWO POSITIVE WEST NILE VIRUS MOSQUITO POOLS

The Oklahoma City-County Health Department confirm two positive mosquito pools carrying the West Nile Virus (WNV) in Oklahoma County. Residents need to take extra precautions against mosquito-borne illness by avoiding mosquito bites and reducing habitats where mosquitoes live and breed. “Getting rid of any sources of stagnant water will certainly help,” says OCCHD Deputy Chief Operating Officer Tre’ Williams.

Basics to reduce mosquito habitats: Empty buckets, flowerpots, wheelbarrows, and old tires from holding standing water. Empty and refill birdbaths and your pet’s outdoor water bowl daily.

For standing water sources that cannot be drained, OCCHD recommends microbial larvicides, commonly called “Mosquito dunks,” that kill mosquito larvae before they emerge as adults. They are available at hardware or home improvement stores.

Be sure to protect your home from invading mosquitoes by keeping window and door screens in good repair.

All residents are urged to use the 3-D’s and a “P” of mosquito safety:

1. **DRAIN** standing water on your property so mosquitoes won’t breed.
2. Use insect repellent that contains **DEET** on your clothes.
3. **DRESS** appropriately to protect from mosquitoes.
4. **Protect** – limit exposure to mosquito-induced environments.

West Nile symptoms include fever, headache, body aches, and sometimes a rash. The most susceptible to illness include infants, the elderly, and those with weakened immune systems. If symptoms are severe, health officials say to contact your doctor immediately.

*For more information on terms and different types of West Nile Virus infections:
<https://www.fightthebiteok.com/>

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