



West Nile Virus Testing
June 15, 2023

Potter and Randall Counties are experiencing an increase in mosquitoes due to standing water. Therefore, the risk of West Nile Virus (WNV) transmission is increased. Amarillo Public Health and Amarillo Environmental Health are issuing this notification to **encourage providers to order a West Nile IgM (serum) test for patients who have a fever greater than 100.5 and mosquito exposure.**

West Nile Virus is the leading cause of mosquito-borne disease in the continental United States and is commonly spread to people through the bite of an infected mosquito. Cases of WNV peak during mosquito season, which starts in the summer, continues through fall and shifts based on rainfall. Most people infected with WNV do not feel sick. However, about one in five people who are infected develop febrile illness which can result in lasting weakness and fatigue. About one of every 150 infected people develop a serious, sometimes fatal, neurological illness (CDC, 2023).

We are asking you as healthcare partners to be diligent in testing for WNV to help us target vector control activities. Also, please remind patients about the 4 D's of mosquito protection:

- DEET containing mosquito repellent should be applied to protect from mosquito bites.
- Dress in light colored pants and long sleeve when outdoors so skin is covered.
- Drain standing water from all outside containers including buckets, tires, flowerpots, birdbaths, and pet water dishes. Scrub them well if refilling.
- Dusk are dawn are when mosquitoes are most actively feeding so avoid being outdoors during those times.

Thank you for partnering with us to help reduce the spread of West Nile Virus in our community. For additional resources visit <https://www.cdc.gov/westnile/index.html>