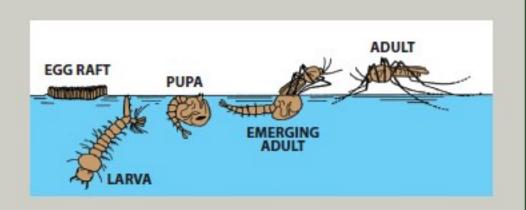
#### **MOSQUITO LIFE CYCLE**

# Mosquitoes need water to exist!

The illustration below depicts the mosquito life cycle from egg, larva, pupa to adult. You can prevent mosquitoes from developing by removing or draining any container that supports this life cycle.



### Protection starts with you!

The most efficient ways to control mosquito populations are by eliminating the breeding sources, using a mosquito larvicide and through public education. Spraying is effective but it is a measure of last resort.

The Health Department schedules mosquito sprayings when positive findings of the West Nile virus are found in trapped mosquitoes or when a human case is confirmed through the county health department.

Spraying typically takes place from 10 p.m. to 3 a.m., times when people are unlikely to be outdoors.

#### Follow the Four D's of protection

- · DRAIN standing water around the home,
- Use insect repellent containing DEET,
- Avoid being outdoors at DUSK and DAWN when mosquitoes are most active,
- And DRESS to protect yourself with long sleeves and pants to reduce skin exposure.

Anything that will hold water for more than a few days can be a mosquito habitat!



City of Richardson Health Department 972-744-4080 www.cor.net

**Revised August 2012** 



**Around Your Home** 

#### What is West Nile Virus?

West Nile Virus (WNV) is a mosquito-borne disease. Most people and animals who become infected with the virus have only a mild illness or no symptoms, but in rare cases can become seriously ill. Our goal is to decrease the numbers of mosquitoes in the city thereby minimizing the possibility of WNV transmission.

#### Who is at risk?

The main people who are at risk of developing severe symptoms are people aged 50 and over, as well as those people who have compromised immune systems as a result of disease or drug treatment programs. It should also be noted that if you spend a lot of time outside, your risk factor goes up sharply.

# How soon do infected people get sick?

People typically develop symptoms between 3 and 14 days after they are bitten by an infected mosquito.

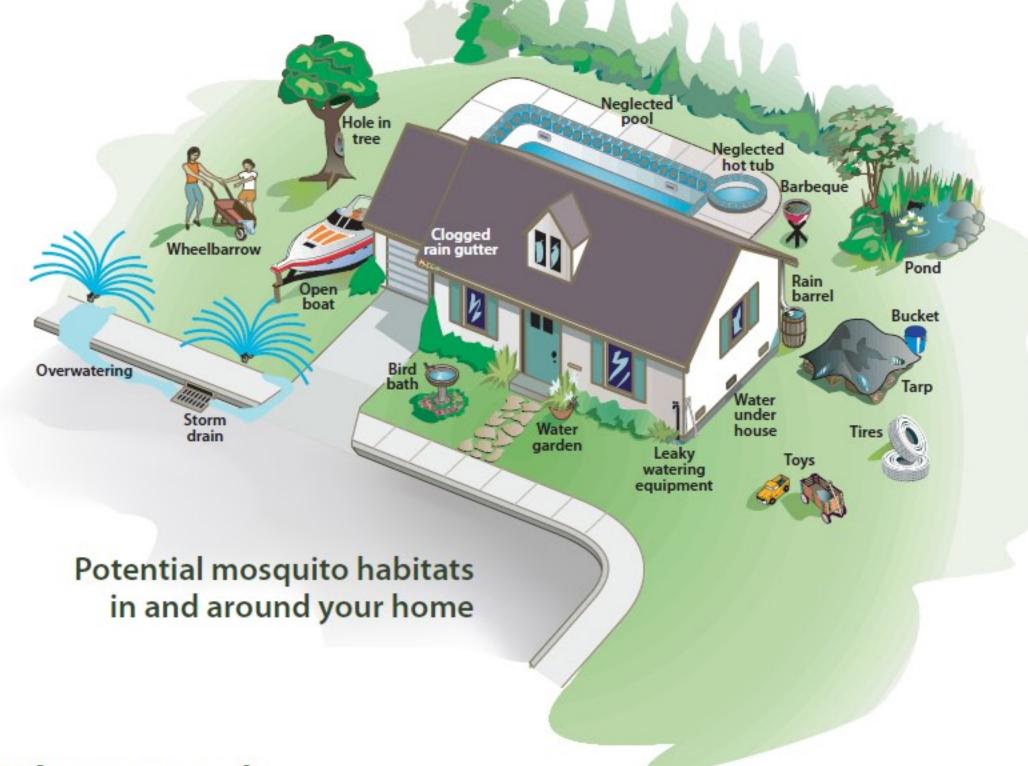
## What are the symptoms?

Not everyone who gets bitten by an infected mosquito will get the virus, and it's rare for people to become very sick if they do develop symptoms from the disease. Symptoms of West Nile virus vary depending upon the person who becomes infected. Those who do develop symptoms usually suffer from mild "flu-like" illness. Rarely, symptoms may require medical care or hospitalization.

### What we are doing...

The City has taken numerous steps to combat the spread of the virus. Some of these are:

- Hiring seasonal help to increase our larval surveillance program, and to treat areas of standing water
- Increasing the trapping of adult mosquitoes for disease testing and population evaluation
- · Providing increased training for our employees
- Increased public's awareness and education about West Nile virus
- Coordinating our response plan with other agencies



## What you can do...

Fishpond	Remove excess vegetation and construct properly	Leaky pipes Tires	Drain the area; correct leaky plumbing, dripping air conditioner or refrigerator; water under houses is a mosquito habitat in urban areas
Swimming pool	Keep sanitized and filtered; keep water off any cover		
Spa, hot tub	Keep sanitized, filtered and heated; if no		Dispose of properly or cover so that wa- ter does not collect inside
	longer in use, keep empty or remove it	Tree holes	Inspect for larva during the rainy season; if found, consult a licensed arborist or tree service to determine the best method of eliminating water
Bird bath	Flush out completely once a week and refill		
Containers	Empty, turn over, throw out or cover any con- tainer to prevent water from accumulating	Creek	
Standing water	If water stands for more than a week eliminate it by draining or filling		Do not throw garden debris into creeks - these obstructions can create mosquito habitat
Catch basin, storm drains	Do not throw garbage or garden debris into these as it enhances mosquito habitat	Irrigation	Don't over-irrigate your landscaping; ex- cess water can provide mosquito habitat