



Hidalgo County Commissioners Court

Ramon Garcia
County Judge

A. C. Cuellar, Jr.
Commissioner, Precinct 1

Hector "Tito" Palacios
Commissioner, Precinct 2

Joe M. Flores
Commissioner, Precinct 3

Joseph Palacios
Commissioner, Precinct 4

OFFICE OF HIDALGO COUNTY JUDGE RAMON GARCIA

Public Affairs Division

Julia Benitez Sullivan
Director

302 W. University Drive
Edinburg, Texas 78539
(956) 292-7026 P
(956) 292-7766 F

www.co.hidalgo.tx.us W
public.info@co.hidalgo.tx.us E

Contact: Julia Benitez Sullivan
Phone: (956) 292-7026
Email: public.info@co.hidalgo.tx.us

NEWS ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, Sept. 11, 2014

West Nile virus fatality confirmed in Hidalgo County

EDINBURG – Authorities have confirmed an 83-year-old Donna man died Wednesday night of the West Nile virus; and a 92-year-old Pharr area man has been hospitalized with what is expected to be the second local case of West Nile.

The Hidalgo County death is the third West Nile virus fatality in Texas this year.

County leaders will be holding a news conference at 9:30 a.m. Friday, Sept. 12 at the Hidalgo County Judge's Office (302 West University Drive in Edinburg) to update the media and the public on the latest developments.

The West Nile virus is a mosquito-borne illness. Persons over 50 years of age and those with weakened immune systems are the most vulnerable, however all residents are urged to take precautions when working or playing outdoors.

A statewide campaign, called Fight the Bite, encourages residents to protect themselves from the West Nile virus by following these four steps:

- Stay indoors at Dusk and Dawn. This is the time of day that mosquitoes are most active.
- Dress in long sleeves/pants, loose and light-colored clothing when outdoors.
- Defend yourself from mosquitoes by using an insect repellent that contains DEET, picaridin or oil of lemon eucalyptus.
- Drain standing water in your yard and neighborhood. Also make sure that flower pots, water dishes, bird baths and wading pools are properly drained so they are not breeding grounds for mosquitoes.

For more information, visit www.txwestnile.org.

NEWS CONFERENCE DETAILS:

WHAT: Update on West Nile Virus in Hidalgo County
WHO: Hidalgo County Judge Ramon Garcia and Health and Human Services Chief Administrative Officer Eddie Olivarez
WHEN: 9:30 a.m. Friday, Sept. 12
WHERE: Hidalgo County Judge's Office Conference Room
302 West University Drive in Edinburg

###

Hidalgo County is home to one of the fastest growing regions in the nation. We provide health and justice to the 807,000 residents of our county as well as a variety of services to residents who live outside city limits. We partner with the cities in our county on services, special projects and economic development. We strive to be accessible and responsive to our citizens. We are committed to providing excellent public service through the values of leadership, transparency, collaboration, fairness, respect and fiscal responsibility.