



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 RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, Sept. 12, 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.

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.

Hidalgo County Judge Ramon Garcia and Health and Human Services Chief Administrator Eddie Olivarez held a news conference this morning to provide details.

“Our County precincts are identifying low lying areas that have accumulated water and began spraying those areas,” said Garcia. “I urge residents to take precautions; the chance of being bitten by a mosquito infected with the virus can be avoided by practicing preventive methods.”

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.

“Alerts have been sent out to schools, cities, and hospitals notifying them of the situation,” said Olivarez. “We are also working hand in hand with the Vector Control Task Force to create an organized plan on handling the issue.”

There are two types of West Nile virus; West Nile Fever symptoms include fever, headaches, body aches, skin rash and others. The Donna man died from West Nile Neuro-Invasive, the most severe form of the virus. In addition to the symptoms listed for West Nile Fever, the Neuro-Invasive form of the virus can also include muscle weakness, paralysis, tremors, convulsions, neck stiffness and other symptoms.

For more information, visit www.txwestnile.org.

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.



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

###

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

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.