



DCHHS
Dallas County Health and Human Services
Healthy People • Healthy Communities
Health and Social Equity



ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

2024 Q2 NEWSLETTER



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Mosquito Control in 2024

Number of mosquito traps deployed: 65

Number of mosquito traps identified: 39

Number of mosquito traps collected: 65

*Data is from Jan 1st, 2024 - March 31st, 2024

Mosquitoes can transmit viruses such as West Nile Virus (WNV), Chikungunya, Dengue and Zika Virus. DCHHS recommends everyone use the 4Ds to reduce the chance of being bitten by a mosquito.

The 4 Ds

DEET All Day, Every Day: Whenever you're outside, use insect repellents that contain DEET or other EPA approved repellents and follow the instructions. Always follow label instructions.

DRESS: Wear long, loose, and light-colored clothing outside. Mosquitoes look for exposed skin and are more attracted to dark colored clothing. Never put mosquito repellent on clothing.

DRAIN: Remove all standing water in and around your home. Mosquitoes breed and larvae develop in standing water. Bird baths and ponds should be cleaned and maintained. Drain and/or treat areas that collect water, such as gutters and storm drains.

DUSK & DAWN: Limit outdoor activities during dusk and dawn hours when mosquitoes are most active. Make sure window screens and screen doors are in good repair to keep mosquitoes from coming inside.

Animal Control-Rabies

Be aware: rabies can occur year-round, everywhere in Dallas County. Indicators that an animal might have rabies:

1-Behavioral changes: This is the most common sign of rabies in animals. Infected animals may exhibit unusual aggression or become very shy and withdrawn. They may also become disoriented and seem confused.

- Bold, "friendly," or "apparently tame" wild animals.
- Night animals that are seen in the daytime.
- Signs of excitement or viciousness in normally quiet animals.

2-Excessive drooling: Rabid animals often produce a lot of saliva, which may hang from their mouth.

3-Difficulty functioning: Rabid animals often have difficulty controlling their bodies.

- Pets that have difficulty walking, swallowing, eating, or drinking.
- Animals that tear at or scratch an old wound until it bleeds.

4-Seizures: Seizures are another common sign of rabies in animals. These can range from mild tremors to full-blown convulsions.



If you are bitten by an animal, it is important to wash the wound immediately with soap and water and seek medical attention right away. Rabies is almost always fatal once symptoms develop, but prompt treatment after exposure can prevent the virus from taking hold. Take these steps:

1-Identify the animal (kind, size, color, and place) and call Dallas County Animal Control and/or Dallas County Sheriff's Department

2-See a doctor immediately after washing the wound.

3-Report incident to the local health officer and animal control agency.

4-Ideally, the biting animal should be tested for rabies. If testing isn't possible, a 10-day observation period is necessary. A healthy animal after 10 days suggests it wasn't infectious at the time of the bite.

Foodborne Illnesses from January 2024 to May 2024:

Row Labels	Count of Condition
Botulism, infant	1
Campylobacteriosis	90
Cryptosporidiosis	20
Listeriosis	1
Salmonella Paratyphi	2
Salmonella Typhi	3
Salmonella, non-Paratyphi/non-Typhi	88
Shiga toxin-producing Escherichia coli (STEC)	23
Shigellosis	57
Yersiniosis	16
Grand Total	301

What is Capmylobacter?

Campylobacter are bacteria that can make people ill with diarrhea. The illness is called campylobacteriosis. Foods/sources associated with Campylobacter are poultry, raw (unpasteurized) milk, dairy products, seafood, untreated water, produce, and pet store supplies.

How to prevent Campylobacter:

- Wash your hands regularly with soap and water.
- Be careful when preparing raw meat, poultry, and seafood.
- Drink treated water and pasteurized milk.
- Be mindful when playing with or taking care of pets.

What is Staphylococcal Food Poisoning?

Staph food poisoning is a gastrointestinal illness. It is caused by toxins made by Staphylococcus aureus (Staph) bacteria. Foods associated with staphylococcus are foods that are not cooked after handling such as sliced meats, puddings, pastries, and sandwiches.

How to prevent Staphylococcus:

- Always wash your hands before preparing or serving food.
- Keep food out of the "danger zone" between 40°F and 140°F.
- Refrigerate perishable food after 2 hours (or 1 hour if in 90°F or hotter temperatures).

What is shigella?

Shigella are bacteria that cause diarrhea and an infection called shigellosis.

Food associated with shigella are raw foods such as vegetables, fruits, salads, poultry, eggs, milk and dairy products.

How to prevent Shigella:

- Wash your hands with soap and water at key times.
- Take care when changing diapers.
- Avoid swallowing water while swimming.
- When traveling internationally, follow safe food and water habits and clean your hands often.
- If you or your partner has been diagnosed with shigellosis, do not have sex for at least two weeks after the diarrhea ends.