



RICHARDSON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Where all kids learn, grow and succeed

RISD West Nile Virus Precautions & Use of Insect Repellent

Richardson ISD is closely following West Nile Virus (WNV) activity in North Texas, and based on health authority recommendations, is taking and recommending precautions to protect students.

RISD encourages parents whose students will be outside in the early morning or evening hours, such as walking to school or practicing athletics or fine arts, to apply insect repellent **before** sending them to school. This should provide appropriate protection through the early morning period when mosquitoes are most active. Parents may also consider dressing their students in long sleeve shirts and/or pants if they will be outside in the early morning or evening.

As a reminder, the Environmental Protection Agency recommends the following precautions when applying insect repellent:

- Insect repellents should only be applied to exposed skin and/or clothing.
- Do not apply to skin under clothing, or over cuts, wounds, or irritated skin.
- Do not allow children to handle the product.
- If your child gets a rash or other bad reaction from an insect repellent, stop using the repellent and wash it off with mild soap and water and call poison control for further guidance.

Please remember that the hours from dusk until dawn are the peak mosquito biting times. Mosquito activity decreases significantly during the mid-morning to late afternoon hours when school is in session. Parents or students who wish to bring insect repellent for use during the school day must make arrangements with the school nurse and complete a medication administration form. Please do not bring aerosol repellent for use in school as it presents health risks for students with conditions such as allergies and asthma.

RISD works to reduce potential mosquito breeding sites (standing water) and resting sites (tall grasses and weeds) on school property. In addition, areas where students practice are primarily located in open areas on pavement, artificial turf or short grass/dirt – which are less conducive for harboring mosquitoes.

While WNV can be a serious public health situation, health authorities have indicated that school age children are not included in the high risk category for developing severe West Nile illness.

RISD will continue to monitor health authority recommendations related to West Nile, and parents with health questions or concerns about their child are encouraged to contact their school's nurse.