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Dallas County Health and Human Services

DCHHS Reports Second West Nile Virus Death

DALLAS (Sept. 12, 2016) – Dallas County Health and Human Services (DCHHS) reports the second West Nile Virus death in Dallas County for the 2016 season. The resident, who lived in the 75248 zip code of Dallas, was in the late 50s age range, and was previously diagnosed with West Nile Neuroinvasive Disease. For medical confidentiality and personal privacy reasons, DCHHS does not provide additional identifying information.

West Nile Virus (WNV) is a disease that is spread by the bite of an infected mosquito. Mosquitoes can become infected when they feed on the blood from infected birds. The infected mosquitoes can then transmit WNV to humans and animals. Severe WNV infections can cause neurologic complications such as encephalitis. Milder symptoms include fever, headache and muscle aches. There is no vaccine or specific treatment for WNV.

The best way to avoid exposure to West Nile Virus is to avoid mosquito bites. Residents should use the 4Ds to reduce their risk:

- **DEET All Day, Every Day:** Whenever you're outside, use insect repellents that contain DEET or other EPA approved repellents and follow instructions.
- **Dress:** Wear long, loose, and light-colored clothing outside.
- **Drain:** Drain or treat all standing water in and around your home or workplace.
- **Dusk & Dawn:** Limit outdoor activities during dusk and dawn when mosquitoes are most active.

For more information on mosquito prevention, go to:
http://www.dallascounty.org/department/hhs/mosquito_prevention.html.

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