DALLAS COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
OFFICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION

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DCHHS Confirms Two New Human Case of West Nile Virus

August 21, 2008 (Dallas) – Dallas County Health and Human Services has confirmed two new human cases of West Nile virus bringing the total to four human cases for the 2008 season. The patients, residing in zip codes 75159 and 75061, have been diagnosed with West Nile Encephalitis. Both patients are recovering. Previous cases of West Nile Encephalitis were diagnosed in patients who reside in zip codes 75180 and 75052. ***For medical confidentiality and personal privacy reasons, DCHHS is not providing additional information.*** DCHHS has notified the cities of Seagoville and Irving.

Studies have shown that the majority of people who contracted the more serious form of West Nile virus did not use insect repellent. In 2007, Dallas County reported 23 confirmed human cases of West Nile virus with no deaths. In 2006, Dallas County reported 106 confirmed human cases of West Nile virus and four deaths. In 2005, Dallas County had 43 confirmed human cases of West Nile with one death. In 2004, DCHHS reported a total of 16 human West Nile cases with no deaths. In 2003, Dallas County had a total of 54 human West Nile cases with 4 deaths. In 2002, the first year the virus was reported in Dallas County, there were 27 human cases with 3 deaths.

DCHHS staff is partnering with the municipalities to distribute public education materials throughout the community. The best way to avoid exposure to West Nile virus and other mosquito-borne illnesses is to use the three Ds - use insect repellent that contains **DEET**, picaradin or lemon oil of eucalyptus, **drain** any standing water, and **dress** in long clothing. The public can receive information on the locations of infected mosquito pools in Dallas County by sending an e-mail to westnile@dallascounty.org to be added to the *West Nile Watch* distribution list.

DCHHS West Nile prevention activities include surveillance, source reduction, larvaciding (killing mosquito larvae or wigglers), adulticiding (spraying for adult mosquitoes), and public education. Dallas County has enhanced is early detection capability through the use of gravid traps for mosquito collection and global positioning systems equipment provided by the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS). For more information about mosquito activities in Dallas County, call the DCHHS Environmental Health Division at (214) 819-2115 or visit our West Nile website at www.dallascounty.org.