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

ZACHARY THOMPSON
DIRECTOR

DR. JOHN CARLO
MEDICAL DIRECTOR

For Immediate Release – September 19, 2008

Contact: **Jacqueline M. Bell** – 214-819-6329 **or** 214-677-7880 (mobile)

Zachary Thompson – 214-819-2101 214-755-9299 (mobile)

DCHHS Confirms a New Human Case of West Nile Virus

September 19, 2008 (Dallas) – Dallas County Health and Human Services has confirmed one new human cases of West Nile virus bringing the total to seven human cases for the 2008 season. The patient, residing in zip code 75209, has been diagnosed with West Nile Encephalitis. The patient is recovering. Previous cases of West Nile Encephalitis were diagnosed in patients who reside in zip codes 75214, 75062, 75159, 75061, 75180 and 75052. ***For medical confidentiality and personal privacy reasons, DCHHS is not providing additional information.*** DCHHS has notified the cities of Dallas.

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.