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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DCHHS reports the first human case of West Nile Virus this year

DALLAS (August 6, 2020) – Dallas County Health and Human Services (DCHHS) is reporting the first human case of West Nile Virus (WNV) infection in Dallas County for 2020. The patient is a resident of the 75205 zip code in Highland Park and has been diagnosed with West Nile Neuroinvasive Disease. For medical confidentiality and personal privacy reasons, DCHHS does not provide additional identifying information.

This season, mosquito samples have tested positive for WNV in the cities of Addison, Balch Springs, Carrollton, Cedar Hill, Coppell, Dallas, Desoto, Duncanville, Farmers Branch, Garland, Glenn Heights, Highland Park, Irving, Lancaster, Mesquite, Richardson, Rowlett, and University Park. Ground spraying this week is scheduled in Balch Springs, Cockrell Hill, Coppell, Desoto, Duncanville, Glenn Heights and Lancaster.

"The confirmation of the first human case of the West Nile virus here in Dallas County this year is a reminder to the community of the need to take steps to avoid mosquito bites and to reduce mosquito populations," said Dr. Philip Huang, Director of DCHHS. "The best way to avoid exposure to mosquito-borne diseases is to avoid mosquito bites by practicing the Four Ds."

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 where mosquitoes could lay eggs.
- **All Day long:** Day, Dusk and Dawn - Limit your time outdoors mosquitoes are active anytime day or night.

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.

For more information, visit our website: <https://www.dallascounty.org/departments/dchhs/westnile.php>

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