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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DCHHS Reports the Second West Nile Virus Death in Dallas County

Dallas (October 16, 2024) – Dallas County Health and Human Services (DCHHS) reports the second West Nile Virus (WNV) death in Dallas County for the 2024 season. The patient was a male resident of the 75080 zip code with underlying health conditions and was diagnosed with West Nile Neuroinvasive Disease. Due to privacy and confidentiality reasons, DCHHS does not disclose additional information about the patient.

“We are deeply saddened by this loss,” said Dr. Philip Huang, Director of DCHHS. “This death underscores the critical importance of safeguarding against mosquito bites, which can transmit several diseases including WNV. Mosquito activity is decreasing in Dallas County, but it is still important to follow the Four Ds.”

- **DEET:** Apply insect repellents containing DEET or other EPA-approved ingredients as directed when outdoors.
- **DRESS:** Wear long, loose, light-colored clothing to cover exposed skin.
- **DRAIN:** Eliminate standing water sources around your home and workplace to prevent mosquito breeding.
- **DUSK TO DAWN:** Reduce outdoor activities during peak mosquito hours.

By following these simple steps, you can significantly reduce your risk of mosquito bites.

Mosquitoes can become infected when they feed on the blood of 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/communicable-diseases/west-nile-virus.php>

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