



CONTACT:

Christian Grisales, Public Information Officer

PIO_DCHHS@dallascounty.org

972.965.1644

Dr. Philip Huang, Director

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DCHHS Reports First West Nile Virus Human Case in Dallas

Dallas (July 24, 2024) – Dallas County Health and Human Services (DCHHS) reports the first West Nile Virus (WNV) human case in Dallas for the 2024 season. The patient is a male resident of the City of Dallas in the 75230-zip code diagnosed with West Nile Non-Neuroinvasive Disease (WNNND). Due to patient confidentiality, DCHHS does not disclose patient information.

Garland Public Health Department has confirmed two additional cases of West Nile Virus Non-Neuroinvasive Disease (WNNND). The first case is a local resident, while the second case is an international traveler who contracted the virus abroad. Both patients have recovered from the disease.

“Unfortunately, we are having to report our first West Nile Virus human case in Dallas County this season,” said Dr. Philip Huang, Director of DCHHS. “Mosquito activity and the number of positive mosquito pools have been significantly higher than in previous years. It's crucial for residents to take precautions to protect themselves from mosquito bites.”

- **DEET:** Whenever outside, use insect repellents that have the active ingredient DEET or other EPA-registered repellents, and always follow label 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.
- **DUSK to DAWN:** Limit your time outdoors from dusk to dawn when mosquitoes are most active.

WNV is a disease that is spread by the bite of an infected mosquito. 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>

###