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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **DCHHS Reports the First West Nile Virus Death in Dallas County**

**Dallas (August 6, 2024)** – Dallas County Health and Human Services (DCHHS) reports the first West Nile Virus (WNV) death in Dallas County for the 2024 season. The patient was a female resident of the 75230 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 heartbreaking tragedy underscores the critical importance of safeguarding against mosquito bites, which can transmit several diseases including WNV. With mosquito activity remaining high in Dallas County, we urge residents to follow the Four Ds to protect themselves.”

- **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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