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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DALLAS COUNTY HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES CONFIRMS FIRST POSITIVE HUMAN CASE OF WEST NILE VIRUS

DALLAS, Aug. 11, 2026 – Dallas County Health and Human Services reports the first West Nile Virus (WNV) human case for the 2026 season. The individual involved is a resident of Dallas in their early 50s and diagnosed with the West Nile Neuroinvasive Disease (WNND). Additional details are not being released to protect the privacy of the patient.

To date, DCHHS has found a total of 167 WNV-positive mosquito pools within Dallas County. For the 2025 season, DCHHS reported 10 human cases of West Nile disease with one death. The first positive mosquito pool this season was reported in March 2026.

“Our first human case is an important reminder that West Nile virus is still active here in Dallas County,” said Dr. Philip Huang, Director of DCHHS. “Take a few minutes to protect yourself from mosquito bites, especially when spending time outdoors. These simple steps can make a difference.”

Health officials urge the public to take protective measures by utilizing the ‘4Ds’ to reduce the risk of West Nile virus:

- **DEET:** Use insect repellents that have the active ingredient DEET or other EPA-registered repellents.
- **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 seizures, confusion and paralysis. Milder symptoms include fever, headache and muscle aches. There is no vaccine or specific treatment for WNV.

For more information, visit our Arbovirus Dashboard:

<https://www.dallascounty.org/departments/dchhs/data-reports/arbovirus-surveillance.php>