

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Denton County reports first West Nile Virus Case**

July 20, 2017 – Denton County Public Health (DCPH) is reporting its first human case of West Nile Virus (WNV) for 2017 in Denton County. The resident lives in Little Elm and was diagnosed with West Nile Fever.

Chief Epidemiologist Juan Rodriguez stresses that residents can play a large role in reducing their risk. “It is important for residents to proactively take steps to minimize exposure. We encourage residents to drain standing water surrounding their homes and utilize EPA-approved repellent when outdoors,” he states.

Residents should take the following steps to minimize risk of contracting WNV:

- **Drain** standing water around your home, such as bird baths or pet dishes. Consider the use of BTI briquettes (or mosquito dunks) in standing water that cannot be eliminated.
- Be aware of mosquitos during active times **between dusk and dawn.**
- **Defend** yourself by using insect repellent that contains DEET, Picaridin, or Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus when outdoors. Use repellent as directed on label instructions.
- **Dress** in long-sleeves, pants, and socks when outside to reduce skin exposure.

Please visit the DCPH West Nile Virus website at [www.dentoncounty.com/WNV](http://www.dentoncounty.com/WNV) for additional information including frequently asked questions, the latest news, and resources surrounding common backyard mosquito sources.

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