FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Mosquito Season is Back – Get Ready to Prevent the Bite!
Harris County Officials Prepare Community for Upcoming Mosquito Season

Houston, Texas—Heat and humidity during the summer months in Harris County create the “perfect storm” not only for hurricanes, but also for mosquito breeding. As we prepare for the summer, Harris County Public Health (HCPH) wants to ensure that individuals are proactively protecting themselves against mosquito-borne diseases.

Harris County is home to about 56 mosquito species, but less than a handful transmit disease. HCPH encourages individuals to use precautionary measures to protect themselves from dangerous diseases such as West Nile virus, chikungunya, dengue and Zika.

“Our mosquito and vector control program has been protecting Harris County residents from mosquito-borne illnesses for over 50 years, combining science and technology to fight disease-carrying mosquitoes proactively,” says HCPH Executive Director Umair A. Shah, MD, MPH. However, we cannot do it alone, we need our residents’ help in fighting mosquito-borne illnesses like Zika and West Nile Virus. There are a few simple steps each of us can take to protect ourselves and our community from these types of disease.”

MOSQUITO PREVENTION TIPS FOR THE COMMUNITY

As we move into the summer months, enjoy the outdoors but remember to protect yourself and your family from mosquito-borne disease. Your best defense against being bitten is simply to be prepared, “Prevent the Bite Day and Night.”

Personal Protection
- When outdoors, use an EPA-registered insect repellent containing the active ingredient DEET, Picaridin, oil of lemon eucalyptus, IR3535, or 2-undecanone. Follow product instructions.
- If possible, wear long-sleeved shirts and long pants.

Mosquito-Proof Your Property
- Remove/empty containers that can hold water such as tires, flowerpots and toys.
- Change water in birdbaths and pet water bowls every 3 to 5 days.
- Keep rain gutters free of debris.
- Make sure door or window screens are in good condition.

HCPH is the local public health agency for the Harris County, Texas jurisdiction. It provides a wide variety of public health activities and services aimed at improving the health and well-being of the Harris County community.

Follow HCPH on Twitter @hcphtx and like us on Facebook

www.hcphtx.org
If you have a concern, residents in Harris County can report mosquito-breeding sites, monitor confirmed mosquito disease activity in their area, or can learn more about our program by visiting our website HCPHTX.org or downloading our Harris County Public Health mobile app.

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