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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**September 23, 2020
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Harris County Public Health and Microsoft Announce Partnership in Microsoft Premonition Expansion

Microsoft will provide more than 100 mosquito traps to Harris County in 2021

Houston – Harris County Public Health is proud to announce a new partnership with Microsoft in their latest efforts to scale Microsoft Premonition. The initiative will begin in Harris County early 2021 with Microsoft providing roughly 100 sensor stations to track swarms of mosquitoes that could transmit diseases ranging from malaria and dengue fever to Zika and West Nile viruses.

“I’m excited to announce that we will begin integrating Microsoft Premonition technologies into our public health programming, with the initial goal of enhancing our protection against mosquito-borne diseases through remote sensing and AI.” Dr. Umair Shah, Executive Director of Harris County Public Health. “This partnership will also evaluate new genomic capabilities to detect known and emerging pathogens from environmental samples, which we now know is especially important for diseases like COVID-19.”

The Premonition mosquito technology uses a network of robotic smart traps that continuously lure, identify and collect arthropod species like mosquitoes. When a mosquito is trapped, Microsoft and HCPH’s Mosquito Vector Control Division will have real-time data about important mosquito species as these smart traps will autonomously identify arthropods within a few milliseconds as they fly past sensors.

The Premonition Traps AI algorithms will analyze tracking data for the telltale signs of an epidemic in the making, just as weather forecasting programs look for the signs of a storm on the way. Through this, HCPH’s Mosquito Vector Control Division and Microsoft will be able to quickly gather samples and monitor for new pathogens with the ability to collect samples from other animals.

Microsoft Premonition was initially trialed with Harris County Public Health in Houston, Texas during the peak of Zika transmission risk in 2016. HCPH, as one of Microsoft’s early access partners, will begin integrating Microsoft Premonition technologies into their public health program to provide continuous data about disease threats in the environment.

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.

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For additional information about Microsoft Premonition, visit <https://innovation.microsoft.com/en-us/premonition>. For the latest updates about Microsoft Premonition in Harris County, visit <http://hcphtx.org/microsoftpremonition>.

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