FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 12, 2017

Contact: Deb Strahler
512-248-7629

WILLIAMSON COUNTY AND CITIES HEALTH DISTRICT URGES PRECAUTION AGAINST MOSQUITO BITES

The Williamson County and Cities Health District (WCCHD) Integrated Mosquito Management Program utilizes a comprehensive strategy of trapping and testing mosquitoes to identify the presence of West Nile Virus, monitor arbovirus illness in humans such as West Nile and Zika viruses, and educate citizens about personal protection. WCCHD traps and tests the species of mosquito that carries West Nile Virus from May through November. There were nine positive West Nile Virus mosquito samples and one West Nile Virus human case in Williamson County in 2016. There were five travel-related cases of Zika virus in 2016.

WCCHD suggests the following steps residents can take around their homes and businesses to help reduce potential mosquito breeding habitats:

• At least weekly, empty or get rid of cans, buckets, old tires, plant saucers and other containers that hold water
• Keep gutters clear of debris and standing water
• Keep public drains and ditches clear of weeds and trash so water will not collect
• Treat standing water with larvicide (such as mosquito “dunks”) when it cannot be drained and the water will be present for more than seven days
• Remove standing water around structures and from flat roofs
• Change water in pet dishes daily
• Change water in wading pools and bird baths several times a week
• Maintain backyard pools or hot tubs
• Cover trash containers
• Screen rain barrels and openings to water tanks or cisterns
• If mosquito problems persist, consider pesticide applications for vegetation around the home
WCCHD’s Fight the Bite campaign encourages public awareness of the three D’s throughout the year:

1. Dress in long sleeves and pants when outdoors
2. Drain standing water in flower pots, pet dishes, or clogged gutters so mosquitos don’t have a place to breed
3. Defend using an EPA-approved insect repellant

For more information visit www.wcchd.org or texaszika.org.

# # #