FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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WILLIAMSON COUNTY AND CITIES HEALTH DISTRICT URGES PRECAUTION AGAINST MOSQUITO BITES

Fourth of July is just around the corner, but itchy mosquito bites may already be a problem in your neighborhood. In honor of National Mosquito Control Awareness Week (June 24—June 30, 2018), Williamson County and Cities Health District and the American Mosquito Control Association (AMCA) have tips to help you declare independence from those pesky blood-suckers.

Pools are open and grills are going, but are you cooking up a breeding ground for mosquitoes? Standing water and dark clothing are two things that attract them. Follow the 3Ds to keep mosquitoes away:

- **Drain**: Empty standing water containers at least once per week
- **Dress**: Wear long sleeves, long pants, and light-colored, loose-fitting clothing
- **Defend**: Properly apply an EPA registered repellent such as DEET, picaridin, or IR 3535

Make your yard a mosquito-free zone by: disposing of any tires -- tires can breed thousands of mosquitoes; drilling holes in the bottom of recycling containers; clearing roof gutters of debris; cleaning pet water dishes regularly; checking and emptying children’s toys; repairing leaky outdoor faucets; and changing the water in bird baths at least once a week.

Mosquitoes are more than just a nuisance. Their bites can spread diseases such as Zika and West Nile Virus. Mosquito-borne diseases do not only affect humans -- they also kill countless birds, reptiles, and animals each year. Awareness of these parasites -- including canine heartworm, Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) and Western Equine Encephalitis -- is another important component of mosquito prevention.

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

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