FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Mosquito Trap Sample Tests Positive for West Nile Virus

Trapped mosquitoes collected from a sampling location in Taylor have tested positive for West Nile Virus. This testing is part of the City of Taylor’s proactive participation in the Williamson County and Cities Health District’s (WCCHD) integrated mosquito management program. The sample was taken on July 24 and the positive test was indicated in a lab result from the Texas Department of State Health Services lab in Austin and reported to the City on July 26, 2018.

The Health District sets traps at two locations in Taylor. The trap that tested positive was located near Robinson Park off S. Dolan St. The species that tested positive is Culex quinquefasciatus (southern house mosquito) and has a flight range of about one mile.

The City is following WCCHD’s Best Practices for Integrated Mosquito Management which, at this time, calls for increased monitoring, testing and public education. Enhanced mosquito control efforts will continue by treating standing water with larvacide.

What you can do

The City and the Health District are encouraging everyone to be especially vigilant about protecting themselves from mosquito bites and preventing mosquito breeding on their personal property. Even small amounts of standing water and high temps are prime breeding conditions for mosquitoes.

Eliminating places where mosquitoes can breed and reducing the chances of mosquito bites are the most effective lines of defense against exposure to West Nile Virus.

As part of its Fight the Bite campaign the Health District recommends the 3Ds of mosquito safety:

- Drain standing water in flower pots, pet dishes or clogged gutters so mosquitoes don’t have a place to breed and treat water that can’t be drained,
- Defend by using an EPA-approved insect repellent, and
- Dress in long sleeves and pants when outdoors.

There have been no reported human cases of West Nile Virus in Williamson County since 2016. For more information about West Nile Virus visit www.wcchd.org or www.txwestnile.org. For more information on the Williamson County and Cities Health District mosquito management program, visit the Williamson County and Cities Health District website at www.wcchd.org.

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