FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Williamson County and Cities Health District Reports the Second, Third and Fourth Cases of Zika in Williamson County

Williamson County and Cities Health District (WCCHD) is reporting the second, third and fourth cases of Zika virus in Williamson County. The cases were confirmed this week through testing at the Department of State Health Services lab in Austin.

The three patients, one over 50 years of age, and two under 50 years of age, are residents of Williamson County who were infected with the virus during travel to Central America and the Caribbean, respectively. For medical confidentiality and personal privacy reasons, WCCHD does not provide additional identifying information.

WCCHD advises individuals with symptoms to see a healthcare provider if they visited an area where Zika virus is present or had sexual contact with a person who traveled to an area where Zika virus is present. There are currently no reports of locally-transmitted Zika virus in Williamson County. However, imported cases into the county increase the chance of local spread to humans by mosquitoes.

Because we are in mosquito season, WCCHD continues to encourage everyone, especially pregnant women and women planning to become pregnant, to protect themselves from mosquito bites. Remember to use an EPA-approved insect repellent, wear long-sleeved shirts and long pants, use or repair screens on windows and doors, use air conditioning when available, and remove standing water where mosquitoes can lay eggs.

WCCHD monitors the frequently updated information known about Zika virus from the CDC. Here is what we do know:

- Zika is spread to people primarily through the bite of an infected Aedes species mosquito (Ae. aegypti and Ae. albopictus).
- A pregnant woman can pass Zika virus to her fetus during pregnancy or during birth.
- Zika virus infection can cause microcephaly and other severe fetal brain defects, and is associated with other adverse pregnancy outcomes.
- A person who is infected with Zika virus can pass it to sex partners.
- Many people infected with Zika virus won’t have symptoms or will only have mild symptoms.
- No vaccines or treatments are currently available to treat or prevent Zika infections.

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