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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Sixth case of Zika virus confirmed in Denton County

LITTLE ELEM (September 9, 2016) Denton County Public Health (DCPH) today has confirmed the sixth travel-associated case of Zika virus. The individual is a resident of Little Elm and travelled to Jamaica, a country with active transmission. As a reminder, there is no current local transmission.

Zika virus is spread to people primarily through the bite of an infected *Aedes* species mosquito, a known aggressive daytime biter. Sexual transmission has also been reported in a small number of cases. The most common symptoms of Zika are fever, rash, joint pain, and conjunctivitis (red eyes). The illness is typically mild with symptoms lasting no more than seven days. DCPH advises recent travelers with Zika virus symptoms, as well as individuals diagnosed with Zika virus, to protect themselves from further mosquito bites, and also to practice safe sex.

DCPH is recommending travel precautions to countries and territories with active Zika virus transmission. To prevent the spread of disease, people traveling to those areas currently affected should carefully follow steps to avoid mosquito bites while there. "Residents should continue to take precautions to avoid mosquito bites when at home or traveling abroad to affected countries. Whether to protect against West Nile Virus locally or to prevent Zika exposure internationally, bite prevention is key. We also want to emphasize precautions for pregnant women or women planning to become pregnant to delay travel to affected countries with active Zika transmission" says Dr. Matt Richardson, Director of Public Health.

In light of this travel-associated case, however, the Town of Little Elm is planning on residential structure spraying on Sept. 10 and Sept. 11 to reduce the potential *Aedes* mosquito populations that could have bitten the infected traveler. This spraying was recommended by Denton County Public Health in conjunction with response recommendations published by the Texas Department of State Health Services and the Centers for Disease Control.

In addition to the residential structure spraying, the Town will apply a fogging insecticide from 10 p.m. on Sept. 10 to 5 a.m. on Sept. 11.

While there is no current known local transmission in this case, all residents should take the proper precautions to reduce their risk of getting Zika virus while traveling, and to observe the same precautions while home:

- Drain standing water around their homes to reduce mosquito breeding grounds. Consider use of BTI briquettes (or mosquito dunks) in water that cannot be drained, such as small ponds and drinking troughs.
- Be aware of mosquitoes during times that they are active, Dawn, Daytime, Dusk and evening hours.
- Apply an insect repellent that contains DEET (N,N-diethyl-m-toluamide) to exposed skin and to clothing when outdoors. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) also recommends Picaridin (KBR 3023).
- Dress in pants and long sleeves when outside and/or wear permethrin-treated clothing.

Please visit the Denton County Public Health website www.dentoncounty.com/zika for additional information.

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Note: The following page includes advice for those living in the fogging target area.

ABOUT LITTLE ELM – Little Elm is one of the state's fastest growing communities. Nestled on the shores of Lake Lewisville, the Town was incorporated in 1966, adopting the Council/Manager form of government. The population increased dramatically over the last several years, growing from under 4,000 in 2000 to over 30,000 today. Little Elm's population exceeds the state average in education and income, and is increasingly trending younger and technologically proficient. The Town's footprint is just over 21 square miles and boasts some 66 linear miles of shoreline within its boundaries.



Advice for residents within the fogging area

Fogging will occur between 10 p.m. on Saturday (9/10) through 5 a.m. on Sunday (9/11).

- Remain indoors when fogging takes place in your immediate area.
- Keep children and pets inside during fogging and for at least one hour after fogging ends.
- Do not let children play near or behind truck-mounted pesticide applicators.
- Close windows and doors before fogging begins.
- Window-unit air conditioners should be turned off or set to "recirculate" mode so outside air does not come into the house during the spraying. Leave them off for at least one hour after spraying ends or continue to operate on the recirculate setting for an hour.
- If you must remain outside during spraying, avoid getting spray in your eyes or on your skin.
- If you get insecticide in your eyes, immediately rinse them with water.
- Wash exposed skin surfaces with soap and water if you come in contact with the insecticide.
- Wash homegrown fruits and vegetables thoroughly before cooking or eating.
- Cover outdoor tables and play equipment before the spraying begins, or wash them with soap and water after they have been sprayed.
- Bring laundry and toys inside before spraying begins. Wash these items with soap and water if exposed to insecticide during spraying.
- Before fogging, bring pets, pet food and water bowls inside and cover ornamental fishponds to avoid direct exposure to the spray.
- Consult your doctor if you think you are experiencing health effects from the fogging. People who suffer from chemical sensitivities or feel fogging may aggravate a preexisting health condition may consult their physician or local health department.