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Established in 1945, DuPage County Health Department promotes physical and emotional health; prevents illness injury and disability; protects health from environmental risk factors, and strives to assure the provision of accessible, quality service.

July 24, 2018

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

First 2018 Human Case of West Nile virus in DuPage County

DuPage County—The DuPage County Health Department is reporting the first human case of West Nile virus (WNV) in DuPage County for 2018. A Wheaton resident in her 50s became ill in early July.

A recent increase in mosquito batches testing positive for the presence of WNV prompted the DuPage County Health Department to encourage county residents to protect themselves from mosquito bites and the risk of contracting WNV.

WNV is transmitted to people by infected mosquitoes. Approximately one in five people who are infected with WNV will develop symptoms such as fever, headache, body aches, joint pains, vomiting, diarrhea, or rash. Less than one percent will develop a serious neurologic illness such as encephalitis or meningitis (inflammation of the brain or surrounding tissues).

The best way to prevent WNV is to avoid mosquito bites and follow the four Ds of defense:

- **Drain:** Drain those items that collect standing water around your home, yard or business. Scrub and refill pet water dishes and bird baths regularly.
- **Defend:** Use an insect repellent containing DEET when outdoors and reapply according to directions.
- **Dress:** Wear long pants, long sleeves and closed-toe shoes when outside to cover the skin.
- **Dusk to Dawn:** Wear repellent outdoors during these prime times for mosquito activity.

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Residents are encouraged to check the Personal Protection Index (PPI) on the Health Department's website at <http://www.dupagehealth.org/WestNileVirus/PPI> for the most up-to-date information on WNV activity.

The current level is 2: Moderate Risk, defined as high numbers of infected mosquitoes in most areas, at least one human case. The recommended actions: Drain, Defend, Dusk to Dawn.

The PPI provides residents with a current snapshot of WNV activity, ranging from zero to three, with zero being no activity and three announcing multiple human cases of WNV in DuPage County. The PPI is updated every Wednesday at 3:00 p.m. by Health Department staff during the surveillance season, and will change to match the risk level determined for that period.

WNV activity generally decreases in the fall when cooler temperatures arrive and especially after the first frost of the season.

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