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June 10, 2019

NEWS RELEASE

Rainy Weather and Rio Grande Water Usher in Mosquito Season Public Health officials urge mosquito bite, disease prevention

EL PASO, Texas – Officials with the City of El Paso Department of Public Health are reminding residents that mosquito season is upon us and preventing mosquito bites can help prevent several mosquito-borne diseases. West Nile Virus, Chikungunya, Dengue, and Zika continue to raise concerns for health officials across the United States, and experts here in El Paso are asking residents to heed the warnings.

"Here in El Paso we have the two types of mosquitoes that can transmit all of these diseases," said Fernando Gonzalez, Lead Epidemiologist. "We continue to insist that residents join our fight to prevent mosquito breeding, prevent mosquito bites, and prevent diseases that pose a threat to our community."

Another concern comes from residents in the area who flood their yards or crops using water that was recently released into the Rio Grande. Officials ask these residents to use a larvicide that is commercially sold in either liquid, tablet, pellet, granule, or briquette form.

El Pasoans can also help 'fight the bite' by using these prevention methods:

- DEET - Use insect repellents that contain DEET when outdoors.
- DRESS - Wear long sleeves, long pants, and socks when outdoors.
- DUSK and DAWN – Although mosquitoes associated with Zika can be active throughout the day, residents should take extra care during peak mosquito biting hours (from dusk to dawn) or consider avoiding outdoor activities during these times.
- DRAIN – Drain standing water from flowerpots, gutters, buckets, pool covers, pet water dishes, and birdbaths. After rains or lawn watering, residents are asked to "tip and toss" any standing water they find outside.

Last year, there were six confirmed cases of West Nile virus reported in El Paso and no locally acquired cases of Zika have been identified in El Paso.

Residents can report mosquito breeding and standing water by calling 3-1-1.

For more information on the Public Health Department, call 2-1-1 or visit www.EPHealth.com or www.EPSalud.com.

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Media Contact:
Soraya Ayub Palacios
Lead Public Affairs Coordinator
915.212.1040 or 915.781.4386