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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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September 18, 2018

Lucas County Reports First Human West Nile Virus Case in 2018

The Toledo-Lucas County Health Department announces its first confirmed human West Nile case for 2018. Last year, TLCHD reported two human West Nile virus cases and zero cases for the 2016 season. In Ohio, diseases transmitted by infected mosquitoes most often occur from May through October.

“West Nile virus activity in mosquitoes is the highest Lucas County has seen since 2013 when we reported eight human cases for the year,” said Eric Zgodzinski, Health Commissioner.

The primary way people get West Nile virus is through the bite of an infected mosquito. Most people who become infected with West Nile virus do not have any symptoms. About one in five people who become infected develop a fever with other symptoms such as headache, body aches, joint pains, vomiting, diarrhea, or rash. Less than 1 percent of infected people develop a serious neurologic illness, such as encephalitis or meningitis (inflammation of the brain or surrounding tissues). There are no medications to treat or vaccines to prevent West Nile virus infection.

Mosquitoes can live indoors and outdoors, and some types bite during the day while others bite at dusk and dawn. Here are some tips to avoid mosquito bites:

- Use EPA-registered repellents according to label instructions.
- Wear long sleeves, long pants and long socks when outdoors.
- Mosquitoes may bite through thin clothing, so spraying clothes with an EPA-registered repellent will give extra protection.
- Treat clothing and gear such as pants, boots, socks and tents with a product containing permethrin, or buy permethrin-treated clothing or gear. Do not apply permethrin directly to skin.

For additional information about mosquitoes and West Nile virus, please visit: www.odh.ohio.gov/wnv.

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