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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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RACINE COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH REPORTS FIRST WEST NILE VIRUS INFECTION IN RACINE COUNTY IN 2024

Racine County, WI – Racine County Public Health Division (RCPH) is reporting a West Nile Virus (WNV) infection from a healthy blood donor in Racine County. The infection was discovered as part of routine screening practices by a blood donation agency and RCPH completed follow up with the individual. The individual did not have symptoms which is typical in the majority of WNV infections. However, WNV can have severe effects for the elderly and immunocompromised people. WNV is spread from person to person through mosquito bites.

"We encourage everyone to take the necessary precautions to prevent mosquito bites to prevent illnesses," says Health Officer Jeff Langlieb. "Mosquito activity continues until our first frost."

Cases of WNV in Racine County are rare, averaging less than 1 per year with the last reported case occurring in 2018.

Prevent transmission of WNV by taking steps to reduce exposure to mosquitos who may carry the virus.

- Make sure your home window and door screens are in good repair to prevent mosquito entry.
- Limit time spent outdoors at dawn and dusk during mosquito season (June to September) or other times mosquitoes are active.
- Wear shoes, socks, long sleeve shirts and long pants when outdoors.
- Use an insect repellent when outdoors.
- Reduce or eliminate standing water sources.

For more information on WNV and mosquito bite prevention, visit https://crchd.com/west-nile-zika-virus.

For ongoing updates and public health news, visit www.racinecounty.com/publichealth or follow our social media pages on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

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Racine County Public Health Division works with the community to prevent disease, promote well-being, and protect the health and safety of our community in the areas of environmental health, community health, and emergency preparedness. We aim to be a trusted health leader and relevant force in the community.

Visit us at www.racinecounty.com/publichealth, Facebook.com/RCPHD, Twitter.com/RacineCoPH and Instagram.com/racinecountypublichealth.