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April 17, 2019

NEWS RELEASE

Zika Action Day Generates “Buzz” in the Sun City

EL PASO, Texas – The City of El Paso Department of Public Health is teaming up with the Environmental Services Department’s Vector Control Program to celebrate **Zika Action Day** on **April 20, 2019** at **San Jacinto Plaza**. The event will be a part of the Earth Day festivities and offer fun and educational opportunities for both children and adults.

Zika Action Day is dedicated to preventing the transmission of Zika and other mosquito-borne diseases and bringing awareness to the importance of staying healthy. The Department of Public Health Emergency Preparedness Program, along with ESD Vector Control will host a booth at ESD Earth Day featuring demonstrations, and fun, interactive games for the entire family. We encourage everyone to participate in Zika Action Day as a fun way to learn how to avoid mosquito bites.

“This promises to be a great event, early in the season when education is most critical. Our event takes place before we are inundated with mosquitos and before the threat is highest,” said Sara Saucedo, Health Project Coordinator. “Our Tip and Toss Trooper Challenge is a relay game targeted at children who are commonly the members of the family who spend the most time outdoors. We hope they will take what they learn back to their parents and other family members in order to prevent the spread of mosquito-borne diseases.”

This free event will feature interactive games for children, health information booths, free Zika prevention kits, demonstrations, and fun for the entire family.

“We want to celebrate this day as a way to show our community not just why preventing diseases is important, but also to show them that these life-saving activities can be fun,” said Flor Puentes, Field Epidemiologist.

There were three travel-associated cases of Zika virus in the El Paso area in 2016. All local Public Health Laboratory testing of expectant mothers for Zika continues to be negative. However, it is important to remember that West Nile virus is endemic to our region. Preventing all mosquito bites is a critical message for residents in our area and especially for those individuals with chronic medical conditions, pregnant women, and young children.

In addition to the event, local agencies and organizations may request free Zika presentations by visiting the Speakers Bureau webpage at www.EPHealth.com.

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