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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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BRADFORD CHD Urges Residents to Protect Themselves from Mosquito-Borne Illness

The Bradford County Health Department has received notification that two horses in Bradford County have recently died and tested positive to Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE), a mosquito-borne disease.

EEE virus primarily affects horses, but humans can become infected, although it is rare. Horse owners are reminded to ask their veterinarians about a vaccine for horses to protect against EEE and West Nile Virus infections.

The Health Department would like to remind residents and visitors to avoid being bitten by mosquitoes by encouraging everyone to take basic precautions to help limit exposure. The Department Of Health has been using the program of "5 D's" for prevention:

- Dusk and Dawn – Avoid being outdoors when mosquitoes are seeking blood. For many species this is the dusk and dawn hours.
- Dress – Wear clothing that covers most of your skin.
- DEET – When the potential exists for exposure to mosquitoes, repellents containing DEET (N,N-diethyl-meta-toluamide, or N,N-diethyl-3-methylbenzamide) are recommended. Products with concentrations up to 30% DEET are generally recommended for most situations. DEET is not recommended for children under 2 months. Infants should be kept indoors or use mosquito netting over carriers when mosquitoes are present.
- Drainage – Check around your home and eliminate standing water in which mosquitoes can lay their eggs.

Elimination of breeding sites is an excellent key to prevention. Here are some tips on eliminating mosquito breeding sites:

- Clean out eaves, troughs and gutters.
- Remove old tires or drill holes in those used in playgrounds so they will drain.
- Turn over or remove empty plastic pots.
- Pick up all beverage containers and cups.
- Check tarps on boats or other equipment that may collect water.
- Pump out the bilges on boats.
- Replace water in bird baths and pet or other animal feeding dishes at least once a week.
- Change water in plant trays, including hanging plants at least once a week.
- Remove vegetation or obstructions in drainage ditches that prevent the flow of water.