



# **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **MOSQUITO SEASON NEARING END; NO OUTBREAKS IN PIMA COUNTY**

As cooler temperatures take hold in Tucson and Pima County, residents have likely noticed a marked reduction in mosquito activity. While people should continue to exercise caution when outdoors, the chance of being bitten by a West Nile Virus-infected mosquito has lessened considerably.

"While this year has seen a quiet West Nile Virus season for Pima County, mosquitoes do not recognize property lines, city limits or county boundaries. We cannot become complacent in our mosquito abatement activities," said Dr. Michelle McDonald, Chief Medical Officer for the Pima County Health Department. "Through continued public education, coverage by the media, and regional cooperation demonstrated by all of us, we've been very fortunate to have experienced relatively light West Nile Virus summers over the past two years."

"I commend the public for taking aggressive action to protect themselves and their loved ones from all mosquitoes, not just those carrying West Nile Virus," McDonald continued. "With each family taking responsibility for mosquito breeding prevention, those activities ultimately benefit all of us."

The Arizona Department of Health Services will end its statewide mosquito trapping, sampling and testing services on November 1. As of October 23, Pima County had West Nile Virus-positive confirmed cases in 13 mosquitoes, 3 sentinel chickens and 11 humans. There were no deaths from the disease here; however, 3 people died in Maricopa County.

Because West Nile Virus has entrenched itself in the desert southwest, annual efforts will continue to educate residents and businesses on what they can do to prevent mosquito bites and breeding. The message will remain constant: by reducing mosquito breeding sites, we can reduce the exposure potential to West Nile virus.

"Fight The Bite" is a combined effort from the governments of Pima County, City of Tucson, City of South Tucson, Town of Marana, Town of Oro Valley, Town of Sahuarita, Tohono O'odham Nation, Pascua Yaqui Tribe, and The University of Arizona and Davis-Monthan Air Force Base. This group will resume its mission in spring of 2009.

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