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July 23, 2018

Dear Colleague,

WEST NILE VIRUS EDUCATION CAMPAIGN

Summer and fall not only bring hot weather to Los Angeles but also mosquitoes. Mosquitoes are not just annoying, they can spread dangerous and sometimes deadly infections like West Nile virus. Each year, hundreds of people in Los Angeles County become infected with West Nile virus and dozens have died from their infection. The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health is launching a campaign to educate people about West Nile virus and how they can protect themselves and their communities from mosquitoes. We request your help in sharing this important message with your family, neighbors, community, customers, and clients.

West Nile virus can cause severe diseases like meningitis (brain infection), encephalitis (swelling of the brain) and limb paralysis. The most severe illness occurs in persons over 50 years of age or those who have other health problems. While not all mosquitoes carry this virus, mosquitoes with this virus are found throughout Los Angeles County.

We need your help to inform residents about West Nile virus. We ask that you display the enclosed flyers in public areas to warn people about the threat of West Nile virus and to encourage action to reduce the chance that they and their communities will be affected by mosquito-borne diseases. Additional materials also are available and can be obtained from Public Health online at: <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov>.

We urge people to:

- Use Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) registered mosquito spray, wipes, or lotion when outside.
- Keep mosquitoes out of your home. Maintain your door and window screens in good condition.
- Check for items that hold water once a week. Cover, clear, clean, and cast out (throw away) items that can breed mosquitoes.

West Nile Virus Education Campaign

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We appreciate your interest and collaboration. Together, we will be able to reach many more people and make a lasting impact on our communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Barbara Ferrer". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "B".

Barbara Ferrer, Ph.D., M.P.H., M.Ed.

Director

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