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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Community Forum for Zika Virus to be Held in Starr County

Rio Grande City, Texas (December 2, 2016) — A local forum to discuss efforts to combat the Zika Virus threat in Starr County has been scheduled for December 6, 10:00 am, at the South Texas College Starr Campus Auditorium, (142 FM 3167, Rio Grande City.) Members of the Starr County community are invited to attend this free event.

Although the World Health Organization (WHO) says Zika is no longer a global emergency, they say the virus remains a threat. This week, Texas confirmed the first local Zika transmission in the Rio Grande Valley. In light of this, health officials in Starr County have taken the initiative to organize a forum to provide updated information on Zika virus and the measures being taken by local government and health officials to prevent its spread in the county.

Featured panelists at the county forum include:

Dr. Jose Vazquez, M.D. Starr County Health Authority
Dr. Ronald D. Tyler Jr. Texas Department of state Health Services Region 11
Jorge Oyervides, Starr County Fire Marshall
Joel Villarreal, Rio Grande City Mayor
Aviel Saenz, Rio Grande City Vector Control
The Honorable Eloy Vera, Starr County Judge

Forum panelists will discuss and provide information regarding:

1. The origin of Zika and how it is spread.
2. How to protect yourself from contracting the virus.
3. Efforts the state, county and local agencies are taking to educate the public and prevent the spread of Zika.

Anyone wishing more information about the Starr County Zika Forum is asked to call (956) 487-3476 or email to mgomez@rgcedc.org.

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