



Rick Scott
Governor

H. Frank Farmer, Jr., MD, PhD, FACP
State Surgeon General

12-7-2011
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: PUBLIC INFORMATION
561-671-4014 or press50@doh.state.fl.us

MOSQUITO BORNE DISEASE ADVISORY CONTINUES HUMAN CASE WEST NILE VIRUS CONFIRMED

Palm Beach County, FL— The mosquito borne disease advisory issued by the Palm Beach County Health Department remains in effect following confirmation of a locally acquired human case of West Nile Virus today.

“We continue monitoring for all mosquito borne diseases,” said Health Department Director Alina Alonso, MD. “Today’s West Nile Virus confirmation in a resident serves as a reminder for people to avoid mosquito bites as they do transmit disease.”

It has been five years since the last human case of West Nile Virus was diagnosed in the county. In this instance an adult female from became ill and was diagnosed by their medical provider. This is only the seventh case reported since 2000 in the county.

West Nile Virus symptoms are generally mild and include a stiff neck or mild headache that diminishes in a few days. However, more severe cases include fever, dizziness, weakness and confusion.

The Advisory was originally issued in October as a result of two human cases of Dengue Fever being reported. Dengue is another disease carried by mosquitoes that is monitored along with St. Louis Encephalitis and Eastern Equine Encephalitis. These diseases are not transmitted person to person and are only acquired through the bite of a mosquito.

The advisory encourages all to **drain** any standing water from around the home or business as mosquitoes can leave their eggs in the smallest water reservoirs. All are also advised to **cover** their windows with screens in good condition, use air conditioning when possible and cover themselves with light weight long sleeve clothing and pants. Insect repellants containing DEET or picaridin are also effective in preventing the mosquito from biting.

Mosquito control continues its abatement programs throughout the county.

Persons experiencing symptoms should see their medical provider or if severe visit the nearest hospital or clinic.

Further information can be obtained by visiting the Department of Health Website at www.doh.state.fl.us, or the Palm Beach County Health Department site at www.pbchd.com or the link:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5hxIKkBpF7g>

####



Office of Public Information
Palm Beach County Health Department
PO Box 29, 800 Clematis Street, West Palm Beach, FL 33401
www.pbchd.com