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TWO ADDITIONAL CONFIRMED CASES OF DENGUE FEVER IN MONROE COUNTY

~ Health Department Continues Mosquito-Borne Illness Alert ~



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Monroe County, FL—The Florida Department of Health in Monroe County (DOH-Monroe) has received laboratory confirmation of two additional cases of Dengue fever. All indications of these infections show that they were locally acquired. These individuals received medical treatment and are expected to make a full recovery.

DOH-Monroe and Florida Keys Mosquito Control District (FKMCD) are working closely to continue surveillance and prevention efforts. FKMCD is assisting with these investigations and continue to intensifying mosquito control activities in the Key Largo (Upper Keys) Area.

There are now 47 confirmed cases of Dengue this year in Monroe County. DOH-Monroe and the Division of Disease Control and Health Protection continue to conduct epidemiological studies to determine the origin and extent of these infections.

Dengue can present as a severe flu-like illness with severe muscle aches and pain, fever and sometimes a rash. Usually, there are no respiratory symptoms. Symptoms of Dengue will appear within 14 days after being bitten by an infected mosquito. Dengue fever is not contagious but is transmitted by the bite of an infected *Aedes aegypti* mosquito.

The emergence of these Dengue cases reinforces the importance for the public to prevent insect bites and to take basic precautions to help limit exposure. These measures include intact windows and screens and the use of air conditioning, keeping the area around your residence free from containers that collect water, wearing protective clothing, and the appropriate use of insect repellents after applying sunscreen. Spray out outdoor plants on a regular basis, such as bromeliads and crotons. The Department also reminds all residents to drain all standing water at least once per week and designate individuals to share this key responsibility within the business or household.

For more information, visit www.floridahealth.gov/dengue or www.keysmosquito.org. To view surveillance reports, including weekly mosquito-borne illness surveillance reports, visit: www.tinyurl.com/mosquitosurveillance. If you are experiencing any symptoms or have additional questions, please call DOH-Monroe at 305-293-7500 and choose option 3.

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