

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
PUTNAM COUNTY – MOSQUITO-BORNE ILLNESS ADVISORY

PUTNAM COUNTY--This is to advise that there has been increased mosquito-borne disease activity in the area of **Bostwick**. Two horses and several of our sentinel chicken flocks have tested positive for Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE). **The risk of transmission to humans has been increased.**

Putnam County Health Department reminds residents and visitors to avoid being bitten by mosquitoes that may cause encephalitis disease.

To protect yourself from mosquitoes, you should remember to practice the “5 D’s”:

- **Dusk and Dawn** – Avoid being outdoors when mosquitoes are seeking blood.
- **Dress** – Wear clothing that covers most of your skin.
- **DEET** – When the potential exists for exposure to mosquitoes, repellents containing up to 30 percent DEET (N,N-diethyl-meta-toluamide) are recommended. Other effective mosquito repellents include picaridin, oil of lemon eucalyptus, and IR3535. Always read label directions carefully for the approved usage before you apply. Some repellents are not suitable for children.
- **Drainage** – Check around your home to rid the area of standing water, where mosquitoes lay eggs.

Elimination of breeding sites is one of the keys to prevention.

Tips on Eliminating Mosquito Breeding Sites

- Clean out eaves, troughs and gutters.
- Remove old tires or drill holes in those used in playgrounds to allow drainage.
- Turn over or remove plastic pots and pick up all beverage containers and cups.
- Check tarps on boats or other equipment that may collect water.
- Pump out bilges on boats.
- Replace water in birdbaths, animal dishes, and plant trays at least once a week.
- Remove vegetation or obstructions in drainage ditches that prevent the flow of water.

If you are a horse owner, protect your horses by asking your veterinarian about vaccination against EEE and WNV.

Putnam County Health Department and Mosquito Control continue to conduct statewide surveillance for mosquito borne illnesses, including West Nile virus infections, Eastern equine encephalitis, St. Louis encephalitis, malaria, and dengue. For more information on mosquito-borne illnesses, visit DOH's Environmental Health web site at

<http://www.doh.state.fl.us/Environment/medicine/arboviral/index.html> or call your local county health department.

Dead birds can be an indication of WNV activity. Residents of Florida are encouraged to report dead birds via the website <http://myfwc.com/bird/>