

Mission:

To protect, promote & improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county & community efforts.



Rick Scott
Governor

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Vision: To be the **Healthiest State** in the Nation

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FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH REMINDS RESIDENTS TO “DRAIN AND COVER”

TALLAHASSEE - The Florida Department of Health reminds residents and visitors that it is important to “Drain and Cover” this *National Mosquito Control Awareness Week*. The Department encourages everyone to take simple precautions to protect themselves and their neighbors from mosquito-borne illnesses which have received increased attention recently in Florida.

“A simple and easy way to prevent mosquito-borne illnesses is to follow the “Drain and Cover” method,” said Dr. Celeste Philip, Deputy Secretary for Health and Deputy State Health Officer for Children’s Medical Services. “Drain water from any containers around your home, cover your skin with clothing and mosquito repellent and cover doors and windows with screen to keep mosquitoes out of your home or business.”

DRAIN standing water to stop mosquitoes from multiplying:

- Drain water from garbage cans, house gutters, buckets, pool covers, coolers, toys, flower pots or any other containers where sprinkler or rain water has collected.
- Discard old tires, drums, bottles, cans, pots and pans, broken appliances and other items that aren't being used.
- Empty and clean birdbaths and pets’ water bowls at least once or twice a week.
- Protect boats and vehicles from rain with tarps that don’t accumulate water.
- Maintain swimming pools in good condition and appropriately chlorinated. Empty plastic swimming pools when not in use.

COVER skin with clothing or repellent:

- Clothing: Wear shoes, socks, and long pants and long-sleeves. This type of protection may be necessary for people who must work in areas where mosquitoes are present.
- Repellent: Apply mosquito repellent to bare skin and clothing. Always use repellents according to the label. Repellents with DEET, picaridin, oil of lemon eucalyptus, and IR3535 are effective. Use mosquito netting to protect children younger than 2 months old.

COVER doors and windows with screens to keep mosquitoes out of your house:

- Repair broken screening on windows, doors, porches, and patios.

For more information and to view weekly reports containing information on mosquito-borne disease surveillance in Florida, visit <http://www.floridahealth.gov/diseases-and-conditions/mosquito-borne-diseases/index.html>

The Department works to protect, promote and improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county and community efforts.

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