



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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HEALTH ADVISORY
HEALTH DEPARTMENTS INVESTIGATING LOCALLY ACQUIRED DENGUE FEVER CASE
Public urged to help with preventing mosquito breeding areas

ORLANDO – The Seminole and Orange County Health Departments are investigating a locally acquired case of dengue fever near the Seminole and Orange County line by the University of Central Florida. The 19 year old Seminole County man was diagnosed with dengue fever based on symptoms and confirmed by laboratory tests. The individual is recovering from this illness.

Dengue fever is a viral disease transmitted by a type of mosquito common to the southeastern United States and the tropics. It is **not** spread from person to person. Mosquitoes usually bite at dusk and dawn, but the mosquitoes that carry dengue bite during the day as well – especially indoors, in shady areas, or when the weather is cloudy.

Though some people may experience little to no symptoms; the most common symptoms of dengue include high fever (over 101 degrees Fahrenheit), severe headache, severe pain behind the eyes, muscle, joint and bone pain, rash, loss of appetite, nausea and vomiting. There is no specific medication or vaccine for dengue fever. If you are experiencing symptoms consistent with dengue fever, please call your healthcare provider to see if you need to be seen.

The health departments encourage all residents and visitors to help lower mosquito populations by taking appropriate measures to guard against these diseases by practicing *Drain and Cover*.

This includes:

DRAIN standing water:

- Drain water from garbage cans, buckets, pool covers, coolers, toys, flowerpots or any other containers where sprinkler or rainwater 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 your skin with:

- **CLOTHING** - If you must be outside when mosquitoes are active, cover up. Wear shoes, socks, long pants and long sleeves.
- **REPELLENT** - Apply mosquito repellent to bare skin and clothing. Always use repellents according to the label. Repellents with 10-30% 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:

- Keep mosquitoes out of your house. Repair broken screening on windows, doors, porches, and patios.



Both Seminole and Orange County Mosquito Control are inspecting the areas around the county line by the University of Central Florida and treating as appropriate.

In the Western Hemisphere, the *Aedes aegypti* (pronounced edis egypt-tie) mosquito is the main transmitter of dengue viruses. In some cases, the *Aedes albopictus* mosquito has also transmitted the disease. Both of these mosquitoes are present in Central Florida, however, there have not been any locally acquired dengue cases identified in Seminole or Orange Counties in recent years. It is estimated that there are over 100 million cases of dengue worldwide each year.

For More Information on dengue fever, go to www.cdc.gov/dengue. For mosquito disease activity across the state, go to <http://myfloridaeh.com/medicine/arboviral/surveillance.htm>.

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