

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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State Surgeon General & Secretary

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

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HEALTH OFFICIALS CONFIRM SECOND CASE OF CHIKUNGUNYA FEVER
The Florida Department of Health in St Lucie County has issued a mosquito-borne illness alert for St Lucie County
~Floridians are encouraged to take precautions~

St. Lucie - The Florida Department of Health in St Lucie County (FDOH-St Lucie) today confirmed a case of locally-acquired chikungunya (\chik-en-gun-ye) fever, a disease spread by bites from infected mosquitoes. If a person is infected and bitten by a mosquito, that mosquito may later spread the infection by biting another person. Once FDOH-St. Lucie was alerted to the suspect case, information was immediately shared with local mosquito control to initiate disease control and prevention response efforts.

“Avoiding mosquito bites is the key to preventing infection with chikungunya and other mosquito-borne diseases,” said Clint Sperber, Deputy Administrator, Florida Department of Health-St. Lucie County. “Floridians and visitors are encouraged to take precautionary measures to help reduce the chance of being bitten. Remember to drain and cover.”

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 pet's 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.

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COVER skin with clothing or repellent.

- Wear shoes, socks, long pants and long-sleeves.
- 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.

COVER doors and windows with screens to keep mosquitoes out.

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

For more information on chikungunya, visit the Florida Department of Health in St Lucie County <http://www.floridahealth.gov/chdStLucie/index.htm>, the Florida Department of Health at <http://www.floridahealth.gov/diseases-and-conditions/mosquito-borne-diseases/chikungunya.html> or the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention at <http://www.cdc.gov/chikungunya/>.

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

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