

Mission:

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



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Vision: To be the Healthiest State in the Nation

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Human Case of Eastern Equine Encephalitis Confirmed Mosquito-Borne Disease Advisory Issued for Hillsborough County

TAMPA – The Florida Department of Health, Hillsborough County has confirmed the first human case of locally acquired Eastern Equine Encephalitis or EEE for 2013 in the Northwestern part of Hillsborough County. The individual was most likely infected earlier this month, and is currently recovering under physicians care. The last human case of locally acquired Eastern Equine Encephalitis in Hillsborough County was in August of 2010. The Florida Department of Health, Hillsborough County is issuing an advisory for the community to take precautions to prevent being bitten by mosquitoes.

“We are thankful that this individual is recovering, and doing well,” said Dr. Douglas Holt, MD, Director, Florida Department of Health, Hillsborough County. “While it’s unusual that we see a case of EEE so early in the year, it’s not that surprising given that we’ve had a very mild winter locally”.

According to Dr. Holt, it’s important for residents to stay vigilant year round because infections carried by mosquitos or arbovirus’ like EEE, and West Nile Virus remain active in our community year round.

Mosquito-Borne Illness advisories are declared when human cases of locally-acquired endemic or exotic arboviral disease have been confirmed, or when evidence of intense virus transmission activity has been detected in animal surveillance systems.

According to Amanda Pullman, Epidemiologist, Florida Department of Health, Hillsborough County, symptoms may include fever, headache, irritability, restlessness, drowsiness, anorexia, vomiting, diarrhea, cyanosis, convulsions, and coma.

Eastern Equine Encephalitis is a rare disease that is caused by a virus spread by infected mosquitoes. The EEE virus is one of a group of mosquito-transmitted viruses that can cause inflammation of the brain (encephalitis). In the United States, approximately 5-10 EEE cases are reported annually. EEE is only transmitted through the bite of an infected mosquito, and does not occur directly from person to person.

The Florida Department of Health, Hillsborough County is working closely with Hillsborough County Mosquito and Aquatic Weed Control, <http://www.hillsboroughcounty.org/mosquito>, to reduce the risk of mosquito-borne disease throughout the county.

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The Florida Department of Health, Hillsborough County continues to remind all residents and visitors to avoid being bitten by mosquitoes. Hillsborough County Mosquito and Aquatic Weed Control and the health department continue surveillance and prevention efforts and encourage everyone to take basic precautions to help limit exposure by following these simple, yet effective recommendations.

The public is advised to DRAIN and COVER

Stop mosquitoes from living and multiplying around your home or business. Protect yourself from mosquito bites and the diseases they carry.

Drain standing water to stop mosquitoes from multiplying.

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: The water balance (pool chemistry) of swimming pools. Empty plastic swimming pools when not in use.

Cover your skin with clothing and use mosquito repellent.

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 DEET, picaridin, oil of lemon eucalyptus, and IR3535 are effective. Use mosquito netting to protect children younger than 2 months. Keep mosquitoes out of your house. Repair broken screens on windows, doors, porches, and patios.

More information on preventing mosquito-borne disease please visit:

<http://www.floridashealth.com/Environment/medicine/arboviral/Prevention.html>.

The Florida Department of Health continues to conduct statewide surveillance for mosquito-borne illnesses, including WNV and Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE), St. Louis Encephalitis (SLE), malaria and dengue. For more information on mosquito-borne illnesses, please visit The Florida Department of Health's Environmental Health Website at <http://doh.state.fl.us/Environment/medicine/arboviral/index.html>, and for more on Eastern Equine Encephalitis please visit <http://www.doh.state.fl.us/Environment/medicine/arboviral/EasternEquine.html>, or the CDC website at <http://www.cdc.gov/EasternEquineEncephalitis/index.html>.

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