

October 1, 2010

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For Immediate Release

MOSQUITO ADVISORY ISSUED FOR ST. LUCIE COUNTY

Confirmed sentinel chickens with West Nile virus

ST. LUCIE COUNTY--This is to advise that there has been increased mosquito-borne disease activity in areas of St. Lucie County. Four sentinel chickens in the western area of the county have tested positive for West Nile virus. **The risk of transmission to humans has been increased.**

St. Lucie County Health Department reminds residents and visitors to avoid being bitten by mosquitoes that may cause disease. St. Lucie County Health Department and Mosquito Control will continue with surveillance and encourage everyone to take basic precautions to help limit exposure by following the Department of Health recommendations.

Though rare in humans, West Nile virus infection is a mosquito borne disease that can cause mild to severe illness including headache, fever, pain and fatigue. Anyone with severe symptoms should contact their doctor.

St. Lucie County Health Department reminds residents and visitors to take precautions to avoid being bitten by mosquitoes. In addition, horse owners are urged to vaccinate their animals.

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.

For more information: contact David Koerner, St. Lucie County Health Department, (772) 873-4931 or Jim David, St. Lucie County Mosquito Control, (772) 462-1692.

Information is also available at: <http://www.myfloridaeh.com/medicine/arboviral/index.html>

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