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HEALTH OFFICIALS ISSUE MOSQUITO-BORNE ILLNESS ADVISORY

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Jacksonville, Fla. — The Florida Department of Health in Duval County (DOH-Duval) is advising residents there has been an increase in mosquito-borne disease activity in the county. One human case of Eastern equine encephalitis (EEE) has been confirmed. The individual contracted the infection prior to the landfall of Hurricane Irma in Florida. The City of Jacksonville Mosquito Control Division and DOH-Duval are conducting aggressive mosquito abatement and surveillance.

DOH-Duval reminds residents and visitors to avoid being bitten by mosquitoes and to take basic precautions to help limit exposure. EEE is spread by many vectors, but most often by the *Culiseta melanura* species of mosquito; which is not the same type of mosquito known to spread Zika. This type of mosquito typically lives in marshes or swamps and does not tend to breed in containers. For this type of mosquito, well-fitting window and door screens and wearing mosquito repellent are key. Residents are reminded to wear repellent while cleaning up debris from Hurricane Irma and while out near marshy or swamp-like areas.

We must all do our part to protect against *all* mosquito-borne illnesses by draining and covering:

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 are not 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 do not 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, 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 insect repellent to exposed skin, or onto clothing, but not under clothing.

Tips on Repellent Use

- Always read label directions carefully for the approved usage before you apply a repellent. Some repellents are not suitable for children.
- In protecting children, read label instructions to be sure the repellent is age-appropriate. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), mosquito repellents containing oil of lemon eucalyptus should not be used on children under the age of three years. DEET is not recommended on children younger than two months old.
- Avoid applying repellents to the hands of children. Adults should apply repellent first to their own hands and then transfer it to the child's skin and clothing.
- Products with concentrations of up to 30 percent DEET (N, N-diethyl-m-toluamide) are generally recommended. Other U.S. Environmental Protection Agency-approved repellents contain picaridin, oil of lemon eucalyptus, para-menthane-diol, or IR3535. These products are generally available at local pharmacies. Look for active ingredients to be listed on the product label.
- Again, always follow the manufacturer's directions.

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

- Repair broken screening on windows, doors, porches, and patios.
- Use mosquito netting to protect children younger than 2 months old.

For more information on what repellent is right for you, consider using the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) search tool to help you choose skin-applied repellent products: <http://cfpub.epa.gov/oppref/insect/#searchform>.

The Department of Health continues to conduct statewide surveillance for mosquito-borne illnesses, including West Nile virus infections, Eastern equine encephalitis, St. Louis encephalitis, malaria, chikungunya and dengue. Residents of Florida are encouraged to report dead birds via the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's site - <http://legacy.myfwc.com/bird/default.asp>. For more information, visit DOH's website at <http://www.floridahealth.gov/%5C/diseases-and-conditions/mosquito-borne-diseases/index.html> or contact your county health department.

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