



Roles and Responsibilities

I. Department of Health (DOH) County Health Department (CHD)

Contact: Local county health departments

- Conduct epidemiologic investigation to search for new, previously undetected cases and classify cases as to time (chronological distribution), place (geographic distribution of residence and place of likely exposure), risk factors, and person (demographics).
- Collect reports of suspected, probable, and confirmed human cases of reportable and exotic arthropod-borne diseases of public health significance and enter into Merlin or other appropriate epidemiologic reporting database. Case definitions are available at: www.floridahealth.gov/gsi. Confirmed and probable cases are reportable under Chapter 381, Florida Statutes.
- Facilitate submission of diagnostic specimens from health care providers and hospitals as required.
- Participate in appropriate sentinel avian and veterinary surveillance activities.
- Communicate current arbovirus surveillance activity with the appropriate mosquito control personnel, health care personnel, local community leaders, media and public, etc. as appropriate and coordinate plans for prevention and control activities.
- Provide community information and education as required.
- Coordinate with the DOH Bureau of Epidemiology (BOE) and with local mosquito control to issue health advisories and alerts to the media or to the public.

II. DOH Bureau of Public Health Laboratories (BPHL)

Contact: Department of Health Bureau of Public Health Laboratories, Tampa, (813) 233-2203; Jacksonville, (904) 791-1500.

- Conduct appropriate tests to confirm or support the diagnosis of arthropod-borne diseases in humans.
- Conduct appropriate tests as part of surveillance for arthropod-borne disease agents in animals and mosquitoes. FAX or email animal test results to Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) Animal Industries and FAX or email results to the BOE. Provide mosquito test results to the submitter, the CHD and BOE.
- Report by telephone or email the results of all positive locally acquired or high priority human serologic or virologic tests to the CHD, the BOE, and to the attending health care provider. Submit follow-up written reports as soon as possible.
- Prepare weekly summary reports with results for sentinel flock testing, including the number of sentinel sera submitted, number tested, and number positive by county. Send summary reports electronically to the submitter, the BOE, and the CHD.

III. DOH Division of Disease Control and Health Protection (DCHP), Bureau of Epidemiology (BOE)

Contact: Bureau of Epidemiology, (850) 245-4401.

- Direct statewide surveillance, prevention and control programs for human arthropod-borne diseases.
- Provide guidelines for sentinel arbovirus surveillance.
- Conduct epidemiologic analyses of data from CHDs, laboratories, and other partners.
- Conduct or participate in epidemiologic investigations.
- Distribute weekly electronic arbovirus epidemiology summary reports to CHDs, mosquito control agencies, BPHL, FDACS, academic partners, health care providers, veterinarians, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and other interested parties and post to the mosquito-borne disease program public web page.
- Maintain human surveillance database (Merlin), disease outbreak communication system (EpiCom), and the Electronic Surveillance System for the Early Notification of Community-based Epidemics (ESSENCE-FL).
- Maintain information connectivity among agencies via weekly summary reports, the program website, and as-needed mosquito-borne disease conference calls.
- Recommend declarations of health advisories and alerts to the County Health Officer.
- Recommend health threat declarations to the State Surgeon General.
- Coordinate prevention and control activities with CHDs, FDACS, the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), the Florida Tourism Board, mosquito control agencies, Florida blood banks, and other key organizations.
- Report human and veterinary arbovirus cases into the national arbovirus surveillance database, ArboNET, coordinate and consult with CDC on national and international arbovirus surveillance and studies, and enhance prevention and control efforts.
- Conduct annual meeting for the Interagency Arbovirus Task Force.

IV. DOH State Health Office (Press/Communications)

Contact: Communications Director, (850) 245-4111.

Review and produce arbovirus-related press releases, media advisories, social media messages and other risk communication materials as appropriate.

- Communicate to other Public Information Officers (PIOs) in relevant agencies.
- Distribute mosquito-borne illness messaging to appropriate sources.
- Coordinate with CHD PIOs, DCHP, and BOE regarding media responses to medical advisories and alerts.
- Establish proactive tools in alerting media and public about threats.
- Communicate with the Executive Office of the Governor's Office of Communication if necessary.

V. Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Bureau of Scientific Evaluation and Technical Assistance

Contact: Bureau of Scientific Evaluation and Technical Assistance, (850)-617-7929.

- Collect and distribute mosquito species and count data from local mosquito control agencies.
- Provide technical advice and support, mosquito control, and other services as needed to local mosquito control programs, BOE, and CHDs.
- Facilitate the sharing of mosquito control personnel and equipment between districts, as allowed for in sections 388.231 and 388.351, Florida Statutes.
- Coordinate with BOE and with local CHDs before releasing vector data to the media or to the public.
- Notify local mosquito control of unusual arbovirus activity or events.
- Oversee entry of mosquito surveillance data into CDC's MosquitoNET.

VI. Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Division of Animal Industry and Bureau of Diagnostic Laboratories

Contact: State Agriculture Veterinarian, (850) 410-0900; State Diagnostic Laboratory (veterinary), (321) 697-1400 (Kissimmee).

- Direct statewide surveillance for veterinary arthropod-borne diseases with Florida veterinarians and other partners and determine likely exposure site.
- Facilitate appropriate testing for detection of arthropod-borne diseases in animals.
- Report veterinary arbovirus cases to the BOE as soon as exposure site is determined.
- Provide animal health alerts and animal arbovirus prevention information to animal industry organizations such as the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Florida Veterinary Medical Association (FVMA), and private veterinarians.

VII. Mosquito Control Agencies

Contact: local mosquito control agencies

www.freshfromflorida.com/Business-Services/Mosquito-Control/Mosquito-Control-Directory

- Conduct appropriate mosquito and arbovirus surveillance as feasible.
- Share arbovirus surveillance data with partners as appropriate.
- Provide larvicide and adulticide applications as appropriate and feasible.
- Provide adequate avian serosurveillance of most likely sites of Eastern equine encephalitis virus (EEEV), St. Louis encephalitis virus (SLEV), and West Nile virus (WNV) activity (maintain and monitor flocks and collect blood samples) as feasible.
- Disseminate public information on mosquito control activities.

VIII. Florida Universities

- Provide arthropod-borne disease research at: the Florida Medical Entomology Laboratory, University of Florida; University of Florida, Florida State University, University of South Florida, and Florida Gulf Coast University.
- Distribute research findings.
- Provide consultation and technical assistance to disease and arthropod control agencies.
- Oversee or participate in the Regional Center of Excellence in Vector-Borne Diseases (RCE): <http://cdcsercoevbd-flgateway.org/>.

IX. Department of Environmental Protection

Contact: Bureau of Natural and Cultural Resources, Florida Park Service, (850) 245-3104.

- Coordinate efforts for intensified mosquito control on protected public lands as needed during health threats and emergencies.
- Provide consultation and technical assistance as required.
- Provide arbovirus surveillance information as appropriate to the DEP Safety Coordinator and Safety Advisory Board, Florida Park Service district offices and safety coordinators, DEP Boating Safety Officers, DEP Division of Law Enforcement, and DEP Office of Coastal and Aquatic Managed Areas.

X. Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

Contact: Florida FWC, (850) 488-3831.

- Maintain a database for bird mortality reporting and surveillance.
- Provide consultation and technical assistance as needed on arthropod-borne infection and disease in wildlife.
- Provide arbovirus surveillance information as appropriate to regional biologists and wildlife rehabilitators.

XI. Florida Tourism Marketing Corporation

Contact: Visit Florida, (850) 488-5607.

- Provide timely and accurate arboviral prevention information to attractions, hotels/motels and travel agencies.

XII. Health Care Providers and Hospitals

Contact: Local health care providers and hospitals or the Florida Medical Association at (850) 224-6496.

- Report suspected cases of arthropod-borne diseases to their local CHD as required by law.
- Submit appropriately timed specimens for confirmation of clinical diagnosis (e.g., cerebrospinal fluid [CSF] and sera, or paired sera drawn at least 1 week apart).

XIII. Veterinarians

Contact: Local veterinarians or the Florida Veterinary Medical Association at (407) 851-3862.

- Report suspected veterinary cases of EEEV and WNV infection to the State Veterinarian (FDACS) or suspect human cases to the local CHD (http://www.floridahealth.gov/diseases-and-conditions/disease-reporting-and-management/disease-reporting-and-surveillance/surveillance-and-investigation-guidance/_documents/chd-epi-contacts.pdf) as required by law.

XIV. Florida Blood Banks

- Report blood donors reactive to mosquito-borne disease screening tests including West Nile virus and Zika virus promptly to the donor's CHD or BOE.
- Review plans to protect the blood supply with BOE and DCHP prior to or during emergencies such as outbreaks of mosquito-borne disease.

XV. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Division of Vector-Borne Diseases

Contact: Division of Vector-Borne Diseases, (970) 221-6400.

- Provide technical assistance and laboratory support as requested.
- Coordinate with the World Health Organization and its regional offices (e.g., Pan American Health Organization) on international surveillance, research, prevention, and control.

XVI. Notification and Public Information Related to Arboviral Surveillance Results

- On a weekly basis, DOH will summarize the surveillance data and email the information to the Interagency Arbovirus Taskforce representatives. DOH will also provide this information to the CHDs and CDC and post on the public webpage.

DOH will be responsible for release of public information regarding recommended public precautions. Local organized mosquito control districts, with the assistance of FDACS Bureau of Scientific Evaluation and Technical Assistance, will be responsible for release of public information regarding mosquito control activities. The FDACS Bureau of Scientific Evaluation and Technical Assistance will be responsible for release of public information regarding mosquito control activities in those regions of the state where there are no local organized mosquito control units. FDACS Division of Animal Industry will be responsible for release of public information regarding animal health issues.

For the purposes of coordinated local responses and possible intensification of integrated vector control, CHD epidemiologists should promptly share non-identifying case locality and onset information of human arbovirus cases under investigation with local mosquito control districts. DOH will notify the workgroup members by email of the county of residence of such probable and confirmed cases.

The interagency partners will strive to immediately share significant new information with each other and the other individuals and organizations listed in this section in order to assure the most rapid response possible to new developments.