

For Immediate Release
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Contact:
Steve Huard, Public Information Officer
Hillsborough County Health Department
(813) 298-2024, Cell

Human Case of West Nile Virus Confirmed **Mosquito-Borne Disease Advisory Issued for Hillsborough County**

TAMPA – The Hillsborough County Health Department has confirmed the first human case of locally acquired West Nile Virus for 2012. The 60 year-old male was most likely infected the first week of August and is recovering. The last human case of locally acquired West Nile Virus in Hillsborough was September 2004. The Hillsborough County Health Department is issuing an advisory to the community to take precautions to prevent being bitten by mosquitoes.

“Unfortunately since 2001 when West Nile Virus was first detected in Florida, it has joined other viruses carried by mosquitoes that pose a risk to the public,” said Hillsborough County Health Department Director Dr. Douglas Holt, MD.

Due to the rise in mosquito population, the Department of Health has been advising that the public take precautions to prevent the spread of West Nile Virus in their communities.

“Since local physicians are on the look out for these illnesses it won’t be surprising if more cases are identified,” said Dr. Holt. “We again ask that people drain standing water and cover their skin or use repellent when outside.”

Symptoms of West Nile Virus may include headache, fever, fatigue, dizziness, weakness and confusion. Physicians should contact their county health department to arrange testing if they suspect an individual may meet the case definition for a mosquito-borne illness.

It takes from 2 to 15 days for a person to develop symptoms after being bitten by an infected mosquito.

West Nile Virus is not transmitted from human to human. The most common source of infection in humans is from mosquito bites.

There is no specific treatment for West Nile Virus. Most mild infections are typically overcome with little or no medical intervention within a matter of weeks. More severe West Nile Virus infections may be treated with retroviral drugs. There is no human vaccine currently available for West Nile Virus.

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 please visit:

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

DOH continues to conduct statewide surveillance for mosquito-borne illnesses, including West Nile Virus and Eastern Equine Encephalomyelitis, St. Louis Encephalitis, malaria and dengue. For more information on mosquito-borne illnesses, visit DOH's Environmental Health Website at <http://www.doh.state.fl.us/environment/community/arboviral/index.htm>, or the CDC website at <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/index.htm>.

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