

**Mission:**

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



Rick Scott  
Governor

John H. Armstrong, MD, FACS  
State Surgeon General & Secretary

Vision: To be the Healthiest State in the Nation

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
December 3, 2013

Contact: Renay Rouse  
(772) 631-6008

## DENGUE FEVER ADVISORY ENDS

~ Residents should continue to "Drain and Cover" ~

(Martin County, FL) – The Florida Department of Health in Martin County today announced an end to the dengue fever advisory in the Rio and Jensen Beach areas. Health officials initiated the advisory in August, following confirmed local transmission of the mosquito-borne disease there.

"We have worked closely with Martin County Mosquito Control to monitor the situation throughout the fall," said Karlette Peck, Health Officer for the Florida Department of Health in Martin County. "With the reduction in mosquito breeding in the Rio and Jensen Beach communities, there is now a lower risk for dengue. However, it is important for all residents to continue to take precautions including draining containers of standing water around their homes and using repellent when working outdoors."

For 10 days in September, outreach teams from the Florida Department of Health conducted a door-to-door community survey in the Rio and Jensen Beach areas, providing information on dengue fever and collecting approximately 400 blood samples for analysis. Results showed the majority of samples were negative; however, test results are pending for approximately 40 of the samples. Results are expected in late January. Through routine surveillance and community survey efforts, 22 cases of locally-acquired dengue fever were confirmed, with onset of symptoms ranging from May to September.

On Tuesday December 3, Health Officer Peck will present acknowledgement letters from State Surgeon General Dr. John Armstrong to the Martin County Mosquito Control staff thanking them for their efforts during the dengue fever outbreak. The presentation will take place at approximately 2:45 pm, during the Martin County Board of County Commissioner's meeting in Stuart.

The Florida Department of Health and Martin County Mosquito Control advise the public to remain diligent in their personal mosquito protection efforts. These include remembering to "**Drain and Cover**".

### **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 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** 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, and 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 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 old.

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

- Repair broken screening on windows, doors, porches, and patios.

**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.
- Products with concentrations of up to 30 percent DEET (N,N-diethyl-m-toluamide) are generally recommended. Other US Environmental Protection Agency-approved repellents contain Picaridin, oil of lemon eucalyptus, or IR3535. These products are generally available at local pharmacies. Look for active ingredients to be listed on the product label.
- Apply insect repellent to exposed skin, or onto clothing, but not under clothing.
- In protecting children, read label instructions to be sure the repellent is age-appropriate. According to the 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.
- If additional protection is necessary, apply a permethrin repellent directly to your clothing. Again, always follow the manufacturer's directions.

For more information on what repellent is right for you, consider using the EPA search tool to help you choose skin-applied repellent products:

<http://cfpub.epa.gov/oppref/insect/#searchform>

DOH continues to conduct statewide surveillance for mosquito borne illnesses, including West Nile virus infections, Eastern equine encephalitis, St. Louis encephalitis, malaria, and dengue fever.

For more information on mosquito-borne illnesses, visit the [Florida Department of Health in Martin County](#) or <http://www.doh.state.fl.us/Environment/medicine/arboviral/index.html>.

###