



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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INCREASE IN MOSQUITO BORNE DISEASE ACTIVITY PROMPTS ADVISORY

PALM BEACH COUNTY, FL—The Palm Beach County Health Department continues to monitor for mosquito borne illnesses. Our early detection system for mosquito borne diseases, the sentinel chickens, continues to confirm three additional positives today for West Nile Virus in the western region. In addition, Palm Beach County now has a second confirmed case of Eastern Equine Encephalitis - a horse from Wellington that was euthanized earlier this month. So far, sentinel chickens in Palm Beach County have not tested positive for the EEE virus, and Palm Beach County Mosquito Control is continuing ground and aerial spraying in an effort to eradicate rising mosquito populations.

“The Palm Beach County Health Department is issuing an advisory for residents and visitors to take every available precaution to avoid being bitten by mosquitoes known to spread certain illnesses,” said Health Department Director Dr. Alina Alonso.

- Avoid mosquito bites! Wear protective clothing such as long pants and long sleeve shirts when outdoors and use insect repellents properly.
- Check your door and window screens and repair any holes or tears.
- Get rid of mosquitoes around your home: DRAIN all standing water (even the smallest of containers that can collect water could become a breeding ground for hundreds to thousands of mosquitoes). Keep pools clean and chlorinated.

Eastern Equine Encephalitis is not passed from an infected horse to humans. The Eastern Equine Encephalitis virus is an arbovirus spread by infected mosquitoes, which can sometimes transmit the infection to horses, other animals, and, in rare cases, people. There is no West Nile Virus or EEE vaccine available for humans, therefore it is extremely important for the public to take preventive measures to reduce the risk of mosquito bites.

The Department of Agriculture is advising horse owners to have their animal's vaccinations and boosters up to date. EEE and West Nile infections are preventable in horses that are vaccinated. The Florida Department of Health is also recommending people take precautions to avoid mosquito bites when traveling outside of the United States. Another mosquito borne disease, Dengue Fever has had Floridians on watch since being confirmed in the Keys and also Broward County.

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