

Mission:

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



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Vision: To be the **Healthiest State** in the Nation

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HEALTH OFFICIALS CONFIRM CASE OF CHIKUNGUNYA FEVER
The Florida Department of Health in St Lucie County issues a mosquito-borne illness advisory for St Lucie County
~Floridians are encouraged to take precautions~

St Lucie - The Florida Department of Health in St Lucie County (FDOH-St Lucie) today confirmed a case of locally-acquired chikungunya (\chik-en-gun-ye) fever, a disease spread by bites from infected mosquitoes. If a person is infected and bitten by a mosquito, that mosquito may later spread the infection by biting another person.

The county's first locally acquired case was an adult who lives in a residential area north of Dan McCarty School in Fort Pierce. The individual did not require hospitalization and is recovering. St. Lucie County Mosquito Control began aggressive efforts in the surrounding neighborhood on Monday morning. Mosquito Control and the health department work closely to protect the public's health from mosquito-borne diseases especially when a suspect case is identified.

Symptoms of chikungunya include sudden onset of high fever (>102⁰F), severe joint pain mainly in the arms and legs, headache, muscle pain, back pain and rash. Symptoms appear on average three to seven days after being bitten by an infected mosquito. Most patients feel better after a few days or weeks, however, some people may develop long-term effects. Complications are more common in infants younger than a year old; those older than 65; and people with chronic medical conditions such as diabetes and hypertension.

If you experience symptoms of chikungunya fever, consult with your health care provider immediately and protect yourself against further mosquito bites. Avoiding mosquito bites while you are sick will help to protect others from getting infected.

"Avoiding mosquito bites is the key to preventing infection with chikungunya and other mosquito-borne diseases," said **Larry Lee, St Lucie County Health Officer**. "Floridians and visitors are encouraged to take precautionary measures to help reduce the chance of being bitten. Remember to drain and cover."

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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.

- Wear shoes, socks, long pants and long-sleeves.
- 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.

COVER doors and windows with screens to keep mosquitoes out.

- Keep mosquitoes out of your house. Repair broken screens on windows, doors, porches, and patios.

For more information on chikungunya, visit the Florida Department of Health in St Lucie County <http://www.floridahealth.gov/chdStLucie/index.htm>, the Florida Department of Health at <http://www.floridahealth.gov/diseases-and-conditions/mosquito-borne-diseases/chikungunya.html> or the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention at <http://www.cdc.gov/chikungunya/> .

The Florida Department of Health works to protect, promote and improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county and community efforts.

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