

**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**  
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## **MARTIN COUNTY WEEKLY DENGUE FEVER UPDATE**

*Fighting dengue fever is a team effort:  
Residents asked to drain standing water to stop mosquito breeding*

**Martin County, FL** – The Florida Department of Health in Martin County today confirmed two additional cases of dengue fever, bringing the total to 20 locally acquired cases in the Rio and Jensen Beach area. These two cases were confirmed following routine surveillance and were not part of the current community survey.

“In order to stop the spread of dengue fever, we must stop the mosquito bites,” said Karlette Peck, Health Officer, Florida Department of Health in Martin County. “We urge everyone in the Rio and Jensen Beach area to take this seriously. Simple precautions, such as the use of mosquito repellent will help to keep residents and visitors healthy. This is especially important when people are working outside or are active in and around their homes. It is also critical that people continue to drain standing water in anything that accumulates water around their homes.”

Of the cases, 13 are Martin County residents, two non-Florida residents, one Palm Beach County resident and four St. Lucie County residents who visited Martin County.

Last Friday, the Florida Department of Health launched a community survey to learn more about the extent of dengue fever in the area. Health department field teams continue to work in the Rio and Jensen Beach area providing prevention information, a risk assessment survey and with consent, doing a blood draw for dengue testing. The door to door survey is expected to continue through this week.

A similar survey was conducted in Key West during the 2009 outbreak there, which provided valuable data for prevention and control.

Mosquito Control efforts in Martin County have been extensive, but residents must take action themselves to eliminate mosquito breeding on their property.

The Florida Department of Health advises 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.

#### **Florida Department of Health**

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- 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](http://www.doh.state.fl.us/Environment/medicine/arboviral/index.html) or <http://www.doh.state.fl.us/Environment/medicine/arboviral/index.html>.

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