

**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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## HEALTH OFFICIALS ANNOUNCE TEST RESULTS OF DENGUE FEVER COMMUNITY SURVEY

**(Martin County, FL)** – The Florida Department of Health in Martin County has announced test results for the community survey on dengue fever, which was completed last month in the Rio and Jensen Beach area.

During September, field teams from the Florida Department of Health conducted the community survey and collected close to 400 blood samples for dengue analysis. Results showed the majority of samples were negative for dengue fever, however, one positive case was found, bringing the total to 22 locally acquired cases. Results on approximately 40 samples were inconclusive and require further testing. Test results for those samples are expected in January 2014.

The Florida Department of Health is also analyzing information acquired from the community questionnaire, collected during the dengue survey. A report on the information gathered from the questionnaire is expected at the end of March 2014.

Currently, a dengue fever advisory remains in effect the Rio and Jensen Beach area and routine community surveillance continues.

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.

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- 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>.

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