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HEALTH OFFICIALS ISSUE MOSQUITO-BORNE ILLNESS ADVISORY FOLLOWING CONFIRMATION OF ONE DENGUE CASE



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MIAMI – The Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County (DOH-Miami-Dade) is under a mosquito-borne illness advisory following the confirmation of an identified case of dengue in a Miami-Dade resident. This is the first local case of dengue infection in 2022.

Dengue is a virus spread through mosquito bites by *Aedes* mosquitoes which also spread the chikungunya and Zika virus. Most people infected with dengue have mild or no symptoms. Those that do develop symptoms typically recover after about one week.

DOH-Miami-Dade encourages the following mosquito protection efforts to stop mosquitoes from multiplying and to protect your skin by remembering to “**Drain and Cover.**”

DRAIN standing water –

- Drain water from garbage cans, house gutters, buckets, pool covers, coolers, toys, flowerpots or any other containers where sprinkler or rainwater 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 –

- Clothing - Wear shoes, socks, and long pants and long-sleeves. This type of protection may be necessary for people who work in areas where mosquitoes are present.
- Repellent - Apply mosquito repellent to bare skin and clothing, but not under clothing.
 - Always read label directions carefully for the approved usage before you apply a repellent – **Some repellents are not suitable for children.**
 - Always use repellents according to the label. Repellents with DEET, picaridin, oil of lemon eucalyptus, para-menthane-diol, and IR3535 are effective.
 - Use mosquito netting to protect children younger than 2 months old.

COVER doors and windows –

- Repair broken screening on windows, doors, porches, and patios to keep mosquitoes out of your house.

Additional Tips on Repellent Use

- In protecting children, read label instructions to be sure the repellent is age-appropriate. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (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 Environmental Protection Agency's search tool to help you choose skin-applied repellent products:

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

Symptoms

The common symptoms of dengue are **fever** and **one or more of the following symptoms**: headache; eye pain (typically behind the eyes); muscle, joint, or bone pain; rash; nausea and vomiting; or unusual bleeding (nose or gum bleed, small red spots under the skin, or unusual bruising). Severe dengue can occur resulting in shock, internal bleeding, and death. If you or a family member develop the mentioned symptoms, visit your health care provider or local clinic.

The Florida Department of Health (DOH) continues to conduct statewide surveillance for mosquito-borne illnesses, including West Nile virus infections, Eastern equine encephalitis, St. Louis encephalitis, malaria, chikungunya, and dengue. Residents of Florida are encouraged to report dead birds via the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's site - <http://legacy.myfwc.com/bird/default.asp>. For more information, visit DOH's website at <http://www.floridahealth.gov/%5C/diseases-and-conditions/mosquito-borne-diseases/index.html> or contact DOH-Miami-Dade.

About the Florida Department of Health

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