

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

September 27, 2013

Contact: Kim Geib

(904) 548-1800 extension 5204

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
NASSAU COUNTY - MOSQUITO-BORNE ILLNESS ADVISORY

FERNANDINA –The Florida Department of Health (FDOH) in Nassau County has received confirmation of one case of West Nile virus disease in an adult male over age 65. The individual is currently recovering from the illness. This is to advise the public that there has also been increased mosquito-borne disease activity in Nassau County. Several of the sentinel chicken flocks have tested positive for West Nile virus infection. **The risk of transmission to humans is increased.**

The FDOH in Nassau County has been monitoring sentinel chicken flocks throughout the county for mosquito-borne infections. Since the beginning of 2013, one horse has been positive for Eastern equine encephalitis, and sentinel chickens county-wide have tested positive for West Nile virus or Eastern equine encephalitis virus infection. Though this is the first human case of mosquito-borne illness this year, the potential exists for human illness as long as there are mosquitoes and consistent, heavy rainfall.

The FDOH in Nassau County reminds residents and visitors to avoid being bitten by mosquitoes that may cause encephalitis disease. The FDOH in Nassau County and Amelia Island Mosquito Control partner to monitor for mosquitoes and for the presence of mosquito-borne illnesses. According to Bruce Hyers, Director, Amelia Island Mosquito Control, “Due to the recent rainfall activity and increased mosquito activity it is important to take precautions against mosquito-borne diseases.” The FDOH in Nassau County and Amelia Island Mosquito Control are continuing surveillance and prevention efforts and encourage everyone to take basic precautions to help limit exposure by following these recommendations:

To protect yourself from mosquitoes, you should remember “**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 (N, N-diethyl-m-toluamide), 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 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>

FDOH continues to conduct statewide surveillance for mosquito-borne illnesses, including West Nile virus infections, Eastern equine encephalitis, St. Louis encephalitis, malaria, and dengue.

Residents of Florida are encouraged to report dead birds via the web site <http://www.myfwc.com/bird/>.

For more information, visit: DOH's Environmental Public Health web site at

<http://www.doh.state.fl.us/Environment/medicine/arboviral/index.html> or contact the FDOH in Nassau County, Kim Geib, Public Information Contact, (904)548-1830, ext. 5204 or Amelia Island Mosquito Control, Bruce Hyers, Director, (904)261-5283 or visit <http://www.ameliaislandmosquitocontrol.org/>

###