

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
July 28, 2015

Contact: Steve Huard, Public Information Officer
Florida Department of Health in
Hillsborough County
813-298-2024

Mosquito-Borne Disease Advisory Issued for Hillsborough County

TAMPA - The Florida Department of Health in Hillsborough County has issued a mosquito-borne disease advisory for Hillsborough County. This advisory is being issued due to an increase in West Nile virus activity being detected in our sentinel chicken flocks around the county. The last confirmed case of West Nile virus in a human in Hillsborough County was in 2012.

The department is issuing this advisory to the community to take precautions to prevent being bitten by mosquitoes.

"West Nile virus is just one of several mosquito borne diseases seen in Florida that pose a risk to the public," said Dr. Douglas Holt, MD, Director Florida Department of Health in Hillsborough County.

Due to the excessive rain the area has experienced recently, the department advises the public to take precautions to prevent being bitten by mosquitos and preventing the spread of mosquito borne disease in our community.

Symptoms of West Nile virus may include headache, fever, fatigue, dizziness, weakness and confusion. Physicians should contact their county health department if they suspect an individual may be ill with a mosquito-borne illness.

It takes from 2 to 15 days for a person to develop symptoms of West Nile virus after being bitten by an infected mosquito.

West Nile virus is not transmitted from human to human. The most common source of infection in humans is from mosquito bites.

There is no specific treatment for West Nile virus. Most infections are mild and typically overcome with little or no medical intervention within a matter of weeks. Rarely, individuals can have a severe form of disease resulting in hospitalization. There is no human vaccine currently available for West Nile virus.

The public is advised to DRAIN and COVER

Stop mosquitoes from living and multiplying around your home or business.
Protect yourself from mosquito bites and the diseases they carry.

Drain standing water to stop mosquitoes from multiplying.

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: The water balance (pool chemistry) of swimming pools. Empty plastic swimming pools when not in use.

Cover your skin with clothing and use mosquito repellent.

CLOTHING: If you must be outside when mosquitoes are active, cover up. Wear shoes, socks, long pants, and long sleeves.

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

More information please visit:

<http://www.floridahealth.gov/diseases-and-conditions/mosquito-borne-diseases/prevention.html>

DOH continues to conduct statewide surveillance for mosquito-borne illnesses, including WNV and Eastern Equine Encephalomyelitis (EEE), St. Louis Encephalitis (SLE), malaria and dengue. For more information on mosquito-borne illnesses, visit DOH's Environmental Health Website at <http://www.floridahealth.gov/diseases-and-conditions/mosquito-borne-diseases/index.html> or the CDC website at <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/index.htm>.