

Sept. 23, 2016

Health Officials Issue Mosquito-Borne Illness Advisory



Contact:

Tom Iovino

Thomas.Iovino@FHHealth.gov

(941) 748-0747 ext. 1212

Bradenton, FL – The Florida Department of Health in Manatee County today advised residents that there has been an increase in mosquito-borne activity. A sentinel chicken flock has tested positive for the West Nile Virus. While the risk of transmission to humans has increased, the Manatee County Mosquito Control District and DOH-Manatee are continuing surveillance and prevention efforts to help protect residents and visitors.

DOH-Manatee reminds residents and visitors to avoid being bitten by mosquitoes and to take basic precautions to help limit exposure.

To protect against mosquitoes, the department urges the public to Drain and Cover:

DRAIN:

- Drain water from garbage cans, buckets, pool covers, coolers, toys, flower pots 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 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:

- If outside while mosquitos are active, cover up with shoes, socks, long pants and long sleeves.
- Apply mosquito repellent to bare skin and clothing. Always use repellents according to the label. Repellents with 10-30 percent DEET, picaridin, oil of lemon eucalyptus, and IR3535 are effective.
 - Use mosquito netting to protect children younger than 2 months old.
- Keep mosquitoes out of your house by covering windows, doors, porches and patios with screens.

Tips on Eliminating Mosquito Breeding Sites:

- Clean out troughs and gutters;
- Remove old tires or drill holes in those used in playgrounds to drain;
- Turn over or remove empty plastic pots;
- Pick up all beverage containers and cups;
- Check tarps on boats or other equipment that may collect water;
- Replace water in birdbaths and pet or other animal feeding dishes at least once a week;
- Change water in plant trays, including hanging plants, at least once a week; and
- Remove vegetation or obstructions in drainage ditches that prevent the flow of water.

The department has created a public service announcement on the “Drain and Cover” method, which can be viewed [here](#). Click [here](#) for our downloadable poster on preventing mosquito bites.

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>.

The Department continues to conduct statewide surveillance for mosquito-borne illnesses. 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 your county health department.

About the Florida Department of Health

The department, nationally accredited by the [Public Health Accreditation Board](#), works to protect, promote and improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county and community efforts.

Follow us on Twitter at [@HealthyFla](#) and on [Facebook](#). For more information about the Florida Department of Health please visit www.FloridaHealth.gov.

###