

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 ISSUE MOSQUITO-BORNE ILLNESSES ADVISORY

OCALA—The Florida Department of Health in Marion County today issued a mosquito-borne illnesses advisory in response to an increase in mosquito-borne disease activity in areas of Marion County.

On June 29 a second horse in less than two weeks tested positive for the Eastern equine encephalitis virus. This is the fourth horse to test positive for the virus in Marion County in 2014. Horses also tested positive on April 22, May 31 and June 19.

The risk of transmission to humans has increased, and the Department is continuing surveillance and prevention efforts.

“With two Eastern equine encephalitis infections confirmed in such a short span of time, it is prudent to issue a mosquito-borne illnesses advisory,” said Dan Dooley, environmental administrator for the Florida Department of Health in Marion County. “Residents and visitors need to avoid being bitten by mosquitoes and to take basic precautions to help limit exposure to mosquitoes that can carry diseases. Remember 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.

- Wear shoes, socks, long pants and long-sleeves.
- 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.

COVER doors and windows with screens to keep mosquitoes out.

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

Florida Department of Health

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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 U.S. 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.

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