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**FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
WASHINGTON COUNTY – MOSQUITO-BORNE ILLNESS ADVISORY**

WASHINGTON COUNTY — This public service announcement is to advise that there has been increased mosquito-borne disease activity in area of Washington County and our neighboring counties. Several of the Department of Health's sentinel chicken flocks have tested positive for West Nile Virus. Two horses in Washington County have died from Eastern Equine Encephalitis. **The risk of transmission may be increased.**

Washington County Health Department reminds residents and visitors to avoid being bitten by mosquitoes - they may cause encephalitis disease.

To protect yourself from mosquitoes, you should remember to practice the "5 D's":

- **Dusk and Dawn** – Avoid being outdoors when mosquitoes are seeking blood.
- **Dress** – Wear clothing that covers most of your skin.
- **DEET** – When the potential exists for exposure to mosquitoes, repellents containing up to 30 percent DEET (N,N-diethyl-meta-toluamide) are recommended. Other effective mosquito repellents include picaridin, oil of lemon eucalyptus, and IR3535.
- **Drainage** – Check around your home to rid the area of standing water, where mosquitoes lay eggs.

Some effective repellants are DEET (N, N-diethyl-3-methylbenzamide), picaridin, oil of lemon eucalyptus, and IR3535. Always **read label directions carefully** for the approved usage before you apply a repellent. Some repellents are not suitable for children.

Elimination of breeding sites is one of the keys to prevention.

Tips on Eliminating Mosquito Breeding Sites

- Clean out eaves, 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.
- Pump out bilges on boats.
- 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.
- Remove vegetation or obstructions in drainage ditches that prevent the flow of water.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH continues to conduct statewide surveillance for mosquito borne illnesses, including West Nile virus infections, Eastern equine encephalitis, St. Louis encephalitis, malaria, and dengue. For more information on mosquito-borne illnesses, visit DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH's Environmental Health web site at <http://www.doh.state.fl.us/Environment/medicine/arboviral/index.html> or call your local county health department.