



Rick Scott, Governor
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Coordinator

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CLAY COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT REPORTS FIRST
CONFIRMED CASE OF WEST NILE VIRUS

Green Cove Springs, FL - The Clay County Health Department has reported one confirmed case of West Nile Virus (WNV). This is the first case of WNV virus reported in Clay County since 2009. The 2009 case was acquired outside of Florida. WNV is an illness caused by the bite to a human from an infected mosquito. Most people infected with WNV, approximately 4 in 5 people, have no symptoms. About one in 150 people infected with WNV will develop severe illness. Symptoms can include high fever, headache, neck stiffness, stupor, disorientation, coma, tremors, convulsions, muscle weakness, vision loss, numbness and paralysis. These symptoms may last for several weeks.

"We are pleased to report the individual is doing well and is recuperating at home," said Nancy Mills, Administrator of the Clay County Health Department. "The Health Department is working closely with the Clay County Department of Public Works Mosquito Control Division with spraying efforts to target mosquito breeding areas; however, we would like all residents to protect themselves from mosquito bites and help remove places where mosquitoes breed by following the drain and cover recommendations."

Clay County Health Department and the Florida Department of Health continue to advise the public to continue using personal mosquito protection efforts. Tips on mosquito repellent use and "Drain and Cover" include:

Using Mosquito Repellents:

- Always read label directions carefully before applying repellent
- Some repellents are not recommended for children. Read the label for recommendations for use on children
- Products with up to 30% DEET are recommended
- Apply insect repellent to exposed skin, or onto clothing, but not under clothing
- Avoid applying repellents to children's hands. Adults should apply repellent first to their own hands and then transfer it to the child's skin and clothing

"Drain and Cover"

- 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 or recycle old tires, drums, bottles, cans, pots and pans, broken appliances and other items that are not 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 keep appropriately chlorinated. Empty plastic swimming pools when not in use
- Cover skin with clothing or repellent
- Cover doors and windows with screens to keep mosquitoes out of the house. Check the screens regularly and replace when torn or they have holes.
- Clothing – wear shoes, socks, long pants and long sleeves when outside and mosquitoes are present.

Please see your healthcare provider for questions or evaluation. The Clay County Health Department is also available to answer your questions about West Nile Virus.

Links to helpful information on diseases spread by mosquitoes:

Mosquito borne Disease Protection Advice from FL Department of Health, Bureau of Environmental Public Health Medicine: <http://www.myfloridaeh.com/medicine/arboviral/Prevention.html>

Weekly Data on Arbovirus Surveillance in Florida:
<http://www.doh.state.fl.us/environment/medicine/arboviral/Weekly-Summary.html>

Questions and Answers on West Nile from the Centers for Disease Control:
http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dybid/westnile/qa/insect_repellent.htm

Insect Repellent Use and Effectiveness from the Environmental Protection Agency:
<http://cfpub.epa.gov/oppref/insect>

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