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Human Case of West Nile Virus Confirmed Mosquito-Borne Disease Advisory Issued for Gadsden County

QUINCY- The Gadsden County Health Department has confirmed the first human case of locally acquired West Nile Virus for 2012. The 48 year-old female was likely infected the third week of August and is recovering. This is the first human case of locally acquired West Nile Virus in Gadsden. The Gadsden County Health Department is issuing an advisory to the community to take precautions to prevent being bitten by mosquitos.

“Unfortunately since 2001 when West Nile Virus was first detected in Florida, it has joined other viruses carried by mosquitoes that pose a risk to the public,” said Gadsden County health Department Director Aaron Kissler.

Due to the rise in mosquito population, the Department of Health has been advising that the public take precautions to prevent the spread of West Nile Virus in their communities.

“Since local physicians are on the look out for these illnesses it won’t be surprising if more cases are identified,” said Aaron Kissler. “We again ask that people drain standing water and cover their skin or use repellent when outside.”

Symptoms of West Nile Virus may include headache, fever, fatigue, dizziness, weakness and confusion. Physicians should contact their county health department to arrange testing if they suspect an individual may meet the case definition for a mosquito-borne illness.

It takes 2 to 15 days for a person to develop symptoms 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 the mosquito bites.

There is no specific treatment for West Nile Virus. Most mild infections are typically overcome with little or no medical intervention within a matter of weeks. More severe West Nile Virus infections may be treated with retroviral drugs. There is no human vaccine currently available for West Nile Virus.