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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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**MARION COUNTY EXPERIENCES FOURTH CASE OF EASTERN EQUINE
ENCEPHALITIS IN MARION COUNTY HORSE**

–Marion County has experienced three positive cases of EEE within the month of August –

OCALA – The Marion County Health Department has confirmed a fourth positive case of Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) in Marion County.

“With the recent wave of mosquito activity in Marion County and throughout the State, citizens should take extra precautions to protect themselves and their loved ones,” said Dr. Nathan Grossman, director of the Marion County Health Department.

Thus far this year, Florida has suffered four human deaths resulting from EEE, and has experienced 77 cases of EEE in Florida equine.

In Marion County, all four cases of EEE have been present in horses. The latest case was found in a horse in the Oklawaha area. Several counties, including Marion, have issued mosquito-borne illness advisories.

While there is no vaccine to protect humans from EEE, the disease can be prevented in horses with the use of vaccinations. The health department advises the public to remain diligent in their personal mosquito protection efforts. These efforts should include the “5 D’s” for prevention:

- **Dusk and Dawn** – Avoid being outdoors when mosquitoes are seeking blood. For many species, this is during the dusk and dawn hours.
- **Dress** – Wear clothing that covers most of your skin.
- **DEET** – When the potential exists for exposure to mosquitoes, repellents containing DEET (N,N-diethyl-meta-toluamide, or N,N-diethyl-3-methylbenzamide) are recommended. Picaridin and oil of lemon eucalyptus are other repellent options.
- **Drainage** – Check around your home to rid the area of standing water, which is where mosquitoes can lay their eggs.

For more information on Eastern Equine Encephalitis or the mosquito-borne illness advisory, contact the Marion County Health Department at (352) 629-0137.

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