



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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OSCEOLA COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT
ISSUES PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY FOR MOSQUITO-BORNE DISEASE
(Dengue Fever reported in Osceola County)

Public Urged to Protect Against Mosquitoes and Mosquito-Borne Viruses

KISSIMMEE — The Osceola County Health Department (CHD) is advising residents to take precautions against mosquito bites after receiving confirmation of one confirmed case of locally acquired dengue fever. The 41 year-old female was diagnosed based on symptoms and later confirmed through lab tests. The individual has since recovered.

Dengue is a viral disease transmitted by a breed of mosquito common to the southeastern United States and the tropics, and is one of several mosquito-borne illnesses monitored by the department. Osceola County Mosquito Control and the health department continue surveillance and prevention efforts and encourage everyone to take basic precautions to help limit exposure by following the department of health recommendations.

There is no vaccine or antidote for dengue. The best way to safeguard you and your loved ones from getting the virus is to take preventive measures against mosquitoes. Osceola County Health Department encourages all residents and visitors to help lower mosquito populations by taking appropriate measures to guard against these diseases by practicing *Drain and Cover*.

DRAIN standing water:

- Drain water from garbage cans, buckets, pool covers, coolers, toys, flowerpots or any other containers where sprinkler or rainwater 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 pets' 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 your skin with:

- **CLOTHING** - If you must be outside when mosquitoes are active, cover up. Wear shoes, socks, long pants and long sleeves.
- **REPELLENT** - Apply mosquito repellent to bare skin and clothing. Always use repellents according to the label. Repellents with 10-30% DEET, picaridin, oil of lemon eucalyptus, and IR3535 are effective.
- Use mosquito netting to protect children younger than 2 months old.

COVER doors and windows with screens:

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

For More Information on dengue fever, go to www.cdc.gov/dengue. For mosquito disease activity across the state, go to <http://myfloridaeh.com/medicine/arboviral/surveillance.htm>.