

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
NASSAU COUNTY – MOSQUITO-BORNE ILLNESS ADVISORY LIFTED

Fernandina Beach, FL – This is to advise the public that effective December 31, 2012, the mosquito-borne illness advisory issued by the Nassau County Health Department on November 14, 2012 has been lifted. Surveillance data indicate that the risk of human infection from mosquito bites has decreased. Due to the mild winters in Florida, mosquito activity lessens in the colder months and mosquito-borne illnesses are also less common. However it is important that residents of Nassau County continue to observe the proper precautions to avoid being bitten by mosquitoes to reduce the risk of being exposed to mosquito borne illness disease.

To protect yourself from mosquitoes, you should remember “**Drain and Cover**”:

DRAIN standing water to stop mosquitoes from multiplying

- 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 old tires, drums, bottles, cans, pots and pans, broken appliances and other items that aren't being used.
- Empty and clean birdbaths and pet's 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 chlorinate. Empty plastic swimming pools when not in use.

COVER skin with clothing or repellent

- CLOTHING – Wear shoes, socks, and long pants and long-sleeves. This type of protection may be necessary for people who must work in areas where mosquitoes are present.
- REPELLENT – Apply mosquito repellent to bare skin and clothing.
 - Always use repellents according to the label. Repellents with DEET (N,N-diethyl-m-toluamide), 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 to keep mosquitoes out of your house.

- Repair broken screening on windows, doors, porches, and patios.

Tips on Repellent Use

- Always read label directions carefully for the approved usage before you apply a repellent. Some repellents are not suitable for children.
- Products with concentrations of up to 30 percent DEET are generally recommended. Other US Environmental Protection Agency-approved repellents contain Picaridin, oil of

lemon eucalyptus, or IR3535. These products are generally available at local pharmacies. Look for active ingredients to be listed on the product label.

- Apply insect repellent to exposed skin, or onto clothing, but not under clothing.
- In protecting children, read label instructions to be sure the repellent is age-appropriate. According to the CDC, mosquito repellents containing oil of lemon eucalyptus should not be used on children under the age of three years. DEET is not recommended on children younger than two months old.
- Avoid applying repellents to the hands of children. Adults should apply repellent first to their own hands and then transfer it to the child's skin and clothing.
- If additional protection is necessary, apply a permethrin repellent directly to your clothing. Again, always follow the manufacturer's directions.

The Florida 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. Residents of Florida are encouraged to report dead birds via the web site for Surveillance of Wild-bird Die-offs located at <http://www.myfwc.com/bird/>. For more information, visit the Florida Department of Health's Division of Disease Control and Health Protection web site at <http://www.doh.state.fl.us/Environment/medicine/arboviral/index.html> or contact the Nassau County Health Department (NCHD) at (904) 548-1800 or visit the NCHD website at <http://www.doh.state.fl.us/chd/nassau/>.

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