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## DOH-Marion Issues Mosquito-Borne Illness Alert



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**Ocala, Fla. —** The Florida Department of Health in Marion County (DOH-Marion) is informing residents of two confirmed cases of locally-acquired West Nile virus. DOH-Marion and the city of Ocala are coordinating surveillance and prevention efforts by aerial spraying.

Approximately 80% of West Nile virus infections are asymptomatic. Most people who do develop symptoms experience a mild illness termed West Nile Fever, characterized by headache, fever, pain, and fatigue. Less than 1% of infected people develop the most severe form of disease, neuroinvasive WNV, which may involve meningitis and encephalitis and can cause irreversible neurological damage, paralysis, coma, or death.

Symptoms typically appear between 2 and 14 days after the bite of an infected mosquito. People over the age of 60 and individuals with weakened immune systems (especially transplant recipients and HIV infected individuals) seem to be at increased risk for severe disease.

There is no specific treatment for WNV, and most mild infections are typically overcome with little or no medical intervention within a matter of weeks.

DOH-Marion reminds the community to avoid being bitten by mosquitoes by taking these [basic precautions](#).

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