



Charlie Crist
Governor

Ana M. Viamonte Ros, M.D., M.P.H.
State Surgeon General

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CONTACT: Heidar Heshmati, M.D., M.P.H., Ph.D.
PHONE: (321) 454-7111

**Brevard County Health Department Issues Advisory for Mosquito-Borne Illness
Dr. Heidar Heshmati, Director of Brevard County Health Department
Urges County Residents to Protect Themselves against Mosquito-Borne Illness**

(BREVARD COUNTY) --This is to advise that there has been increased mosquito-borne disease activity in areas of Brevard County. Several of our sentinel chicken flocks have tested positive for West Nile/EEE virus. **The risk of transmission to humans has been increased.**

Brevard County Health Department reminds residents and visitors to avoid being bitten by mosquitoes that may cause encephalitis disease. Brevard County Mosquito Control and the health department continue surveillance and prevention efforts. Everyone is encouraged to take basic precautions to limit exposure by following the recommendations of the Department of Health.

To protect yourself from mosquitoes, you should remember the “5Ds”:

- **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, oil of lemon eucalyptus, and IR3535 are other repellent options. Always **read label directions carefully** for the approved usage before you apply a repellent. Some repellents are not suitable for children.
- **Drainage** -- Check around your home to rid the area of standing water, which is where mosquitoes can lay their eggs.

Elimination of breeding sites is one of the keys to prevention.

Tips on Eliminating Mosquito Breeding Sites

- Clean out eaves, troughs and gutters.
- Remove old tires or drill holes in those used in playgrounds to drain.
- Turn over or remove empty plastic pots.
- Pick up all beverage containers and cups.
- Check tarps on boats or other equipment that may collect water.
- Pump out bilges on boats.
- Replace water in birdbaths and pet or other animal feeding dishes at least once a week.
- Change water in plant trays, including hanging plants, at least once a week.
- Remove vegetation or obstructions in drainage ditches that prevent the flow of water.