

August 28, 2018

FOURTH HUMAN CASE OF WEST NILE VIRUS CONFIRMED IN BAY COUNTY



Contact:

Heather Kretzer

Heather.Kretzer@FLHealth.gov

[850-252-9670](tel:850-252-9670)

PANAMA CITY, Fla.— The Department of Health in Bay County (DOH-Bay) has confirmed one human case of West Nile Virus infection. This additional human case increases the concern for transmission. This case brings the total number of cases in Bay County to four.

In late July, officials issued a mosquito-borne illness alert following confirmation of two human cases of West Nile Virus in Bay County. That alert was reinforced last week with the confirmation of a third case. Panama City Beach Mosquito Control, Bay County Mosquito Control and DOH-Bay continue surveillance and prevention efforts. Health officials caution not to focus on the specific location of cases as the mosquitos that can spread West Nile Virus can travel five or more miles and birds infected with West Nile can go even farther.

With the Labor Day holiday upcoming, we know more people will be enjoying the outdoors. Officials continue to encourage residents and visitors to avoid being bitten by mosquitoes by taking basic precautions to help to limit exposure, including:

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 chlorinated. 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, picaridin, oil of lemon eucalyptus, para-menthane-diol, and IR3535 are effective.
- Use mosquito netting to protect children younger than 2 months old.

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 (N, N-diethyl-mtoluamide) are generally recommended. Other U.S. Environmental Protection Agency-approved repellents contain picaridin, oil of lemon eucalyptus, paramenthane-diol, 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 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), mosquito repellents containing oil of lemon eucalyptus should not be used on children under the age of three years.
- If you are also applying sunscreen, put the sun block on first and then the mosquito repellent.

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.

COVER doors and windows with screens to keep mosquitoes out of your house.

- Repair broken screening on windows, doors, porches, and patios. For more information on what repellent is right for you, consider using the Environmental Protection Agency's search tool to help you choose skin-applied repellent products:
<http://cfpub.epa.gov/oppref/insect/#searchform>.

The Department continues to conduct statewide surveillance for mosquito-borne illnesses, including West Nile virus infections, Eastern equine encephalitis, St. Louis encephalitis, malaria, chikungunya and dengue.

For more information, visit DOH's website at

<http://www.floridahealth.gov/%5C/diseases-and-conditions/mosquito-bornediseases/index.html>
or contact your county health department.

About the Florida Department of Health

The department works to protect, promote and improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county and community efforts.

Follow us on Twitter at [@HealthyFla](#) and on [Facebook](#). For more information about the Florida Department of Health please visit www.FloridaHealth.gov.

.