



For Immediate Release
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Mosquito breeding continues to rise

Public Health Officials Remind Residents to Take Precautions To Prevent Mosquito Bites

Sarasota County Health Department and Sarasota County Mosquito Management officials report a significant increase in mosquito activity during the past week resulting from heavy rainfall and standing water. Eleven flocks of six sentinel chickens are placed in strategic points throughout the county to monitor mosquito-borne diseases. This week nine additional sentinel chickens were confirmed as positive in east and south Sarasota County bringing the countywide total up to twenty-two. This time last year, there were twenty-one sentinel chickens positive.

County Health and Mosquito Management officials expect the numbers of mosquitoes to rise again after the rain that is expected this weekend. Mosquito Management officials have been expanding their monitoring and spraying in flood prone areas; however, they caution that no amount of spraying can take the place of reducing mosquito breeding sites around the home. "We have taken the prevention message to neighborhoods where we help residents to identify potential mosquito breeding sites in their yard. Our staff is available to provide presentations to neighborhood associations, churches and civic groups and have written information for neighborhood association newsletters," says Lyman Roberts, Manager of Mosquito Management Services for Sarasota County.

To request a presentation or to report a mosquito problem, call Mosquito Management Services at 861-9740 or log on to Mosquito Management's website at <http://scgov.net> and click on health to find out when and where there will be spraying for the flying, biting adult mosquitoes. Call 861-9740, then press the number "2" to hear a message that says where spraying is planned.

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Things Residents Can Do to Reduce Their Risk for Mosquito-Borne Illness

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.

Health officials continue to urge residents to protect themselves against mosquito bites, which may spread disease including West Nile Virus, (WNV), St. Louis Encephalitis Eastern Equine Encephalomyelitis (EEE), Dengue, and Malaria:

- **Dusk and Dawn** (avoid being outdoors when mosquitoes are seeking blood, for many species this is during the dusk and dawn hours)
- **Dress** in lighter colored clothing and cover up exposed areas by wearing shoes, socks, long pants and long sleeved shirts, **and**
- Apply repellents containing **DEET** (N,N-diethyl-meta-toluamide, or N,N-diethyl-3-ethylbenzamide) immediately before outdoor activities. Products with concentrations up to 30% DEET are generally recommended for most situations. (It is not recommended to use DEET on children less than 2 months old. Instead, infants should be kept indoors or mosquito netting used over carriers when mosquitoes are present). If additional protection is necessary, apply a permethrin repellent directly to your clothing. Always read the manufacturer's directions carefully before you put on a repellent.
- **Drainage** (check around your home to rid it of standing water in which mosquitoes can lay their eggs).

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