

For Immediate Release

August 27, 2004

Contact: Patricia Frank, RN
Public Information Officer
630-3254

MEDICAL ALERT CONTINUES FOR DUVAL COUNTY

-- Human Case of West Nile Virus Confirmed --

Jacksonville, FL (August 27, 2004) - Duval County Health Department Director, Dr. Jeff Goldhagen, announced that a 2nd case of West Nile Virus has been confirmed in our community with a possible 3rd case pending lab confirmation. This infection is transmitted via mosquito's bites and underscores the need for our community to take the precautions listed below.

State and local public health officials urge all residents to follow the 5 D's for prevention:

- **Dusk and Dawn** -- Avoid being outdoors when mosquitoes are seeking blood, for many species this during the dusk and dawn hours.
- **Dress** -- Wear clothing that covers 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. Products with concentrations up to 30 percent 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 your home to rid it of standing water in which mosquitoes can lay their eggs.

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. Drain unused swimming pools.
- 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.

Symptoms of WN virus may include headache, fever, fatigue, dizziness, weakness and confusion. People who believe they may have West Nile Virus should contact their health care provider. Florida Department of Health (DOH) laboratories provide testing services for physicians treating patients with clinical signs of mosquito-borne disease.

For more information on mosquito-borne illnesses, visit DOH's website at: www.doh.state.fl.us and select Environmental Health from the pull down menu.

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Duval County Health Department

Public Information Office • MC-29 • 515 West Sixth Street • Jacksonville, Florida • 32206-4397 • (904) 630-3254

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