

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 30, 2004

CONTACT: Dr. Heidar Heshmati
Director 321-454-7111

**FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
BREVARD COUNTY – ADVISORY FOR WEST NILE VIRUS**

BREVARD COUNTY--This is to advise that there has been increased mosquito activity in areas of Brevard County. Several of our sentinel chicken flocks have tested positive for the West Nile (WN) 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 continues surveillance and prevention efforts and encourages everyone to take basic precautions to help limit exposure by following the department of health recommendations.

Your personal mosquito protection efforts should include the “**5 D’s and 1 S**” for prevention:

- **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 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% 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.

AND

- **Screens** -- - Make sure that windows remain closed or are sealed completely by screens at night.

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.

###