



Charlie Crist
Governor

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

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Contact: Stefany Strong, VCHD PIO

VCHD Urges Residents to Protect Themselves from Mosquito-borne Illness (Eastern Equine Encephalitis reported in Volusia County)

DAYTONA BEACH - The Volusia County Health Department has received notification that two horses have recently died and tested positive for Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE), a mosquito-borne disease.

In addition, sentinel chickens are also verifying that the virus is present in mosquitoes in the same area. No human cases of mosquito borne illnesses have been reported in Volusia County this year.

"We ask county residents and tourists to be mindful and diligent regarding their personal mosquito protection efforts," said Paul Minshew, environmental health manager for the Volusia County Health Department. "It is important to be aware of mosquito-borne illnesses and how to prevent them."

Eastern equine encephalitis (EEE) is a mosquito-borne viral disease. EEE virus (EEEV) occurs in the eastern half of the United States where it causes disease in humans, horses, and some bird species. Because of the high mortality rate, EEE is regarded as one of the most serious mosquito-borne diseases in the United States.

. These should include the "5 D's" for prevention:

- **Dusk and Dawn** (avoid being outdoors when mosquitoes are seeking a blood meal, for many species this is during the dusk and dawn hours)
- **Dress** – when possible, 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).
- **Drainage** (check your home to rid it of standing water in which mosquitoes can lay their eggs)

Horse owners should contact their veterinarian for information on vaccination of horses against mosquito borne diseases.

For additional information, please contact the Volusia County Health Department's Epidemiology Department at: 386 – 274-0651 or visit www.volusiahealth.com.