

**FDOH
IN
FLAGLER COUNTY**

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To report diseases or request information during regular business hours (Monday—Friday, 8am-5pm) call (386) 437-8262

**After hours reporting please call (386) 986-7749
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Flagler County Health Department Epidemiology depends on the timely reporting of reportable diseases from our area providers to prevent the spread of communicable diseases. We would like to extend our thanks to all of our health partners for their efforts in this venture.

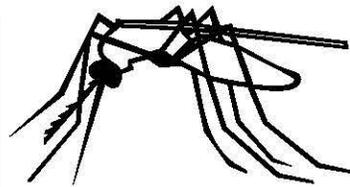
EPI-GRAM



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Mosquito Borne Illness in Flagler County



Floridians are at increased risk for mosquito borne diseases because our subtropical climate is hospitable to both mosquitoes and humans. In general, for mosquito borne diseases to become established in a geographical location, there must be an area for the mosquitoes to live and breed, there must be an appropriate disease reservoir and there must be humans who are susceptible to illness. Illness in humans can be prevented by affecting the components of disease transmission such as by mosquito control programs, eliminating mosquito habitats around human dwellings and preventing mosquito bites.

For the week of May 4-10, Florida Department of Health Flagler, reported one horse with EEEV infection. One sentinel chicken tested positive for antibodies to EEEV this week. No human cases of EEEV have been reported in Florida for 2014.

Arboviruses, such as West Nile virus (WNV), St. Louis encephalitis (SLE) and Eastern equine encephalitis (EEE) are transmitted by the bite of an infected mosquito. Highlands J virus (HJ) is a mosquito-transmitted alpha-virus that is similar to east-

ern equine encephalitis virus (EEE) in its natural cycle; it is transmitted from *Culiseta melanura* mosquitoes to songbirds in freshwater swamps. It has a low pathogenicity in mammals and is rarely seen in humans or horses.

Dengue Fever is a mosquito borne virus not commonly seen in Florida but is endemic to areas of the tropics. Recently, residents of Pinellas County who traveled to Costa Rica and Puerto Rico have contracted dengue while overseas. Last year one Flagler County resident who traveled to Haiti to work with the orphans who were victims of the earthquake, came down with dengue when they returned home. Additional cases of imported dengue have occurred in Palm Beach County. The last indigenous dengue epidemics in the Tampa Bay and Jacksonville areas occurred during the 1920's and resulted in over 4000 cases. Mosquito control programs have become central to eliminating domestic dengue and preventing the re-

establishment of this disease. Physicians are a vital component in preventing reestablishment of this illness through prompt recognition and reporting of imported cases of dengue.

Symptoms of mosquito borne diseases are variable but can range from an asymptomatic infection to a febrile illness, meningitis and/or encephalitis. Those infected with the virus that causes dengue can also present with a hemorrhagic illness. Patients should notify their medical care provider of recent travel history if they experience any illness subsequent to travel. In addition, medical care providers should routinely inquire about recent travel during the history and physical. Physicians should promptly report suspected cases of WNV and dengue to the Flagler County Health Department in order to try to prevent additional cases and to facilitate rapid specialized testing through the Florida Department of Health Public Health Laboratories.

(Prevention is discussed on page 2.)

Prevention is the Key !

Although these illnesses are unique in their etiology, they can all be prevented in the same manner. Whether at home or overseas, the most effective means of preventing exposure to a mosquito borne illness is to avoid being bitten by mosquitoes by practicing Prevention.

DRAIN Standing Water to stop mosquitoes from multiplying

- **DRAIN:** water from garbage cans, house gutters, 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:** The water balance (pool chemistry) of swimming pools. Empty plastic swimming pools when not in use.

COVER Your Skin with clothing and use mosquito repellent.

- **CLOTHING:** If you must be outside when mosquitoes are active, cover up. Wear shoes, socks, long pants, and long sleeves.
- **REPELLENT:** Apply mosquito repellent to bare skin and clothing. Always use repellents according to the label. Repellents with DEET, picaridin, oil of lemon eucalyptus, and IR3535 are effective. Use mosquito netting to protect children younger than 2 months.

COVER Doors and Windows with screens to keep mosquitoes out.

Keep mosquitoes out of your house. Repair broken screens on windows, doors, porches, and patios. Further information on mosquito borne illnesses, website at and the Florida Department of Health website at www.floridahealth.gov.

Reportable Disease Statistics

Period Comparison

Disease Name	Selection Date 12/29/2013 - 04/30/2014		Compare Date 1 12/29/2012 - 04/30/2013		Compare Date 2 12/29/2011 - 04/30/2012		Compare Date 3 12/29/2010 - 04/30/2011	
	Cases	Rates*	Cases	Rates*	Cases	Rates*	Cases	Rates*
County: FLAGLER								
Arsenic Poisoning - 98080	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	1.04
<u>Campylobacteriosis</u> - 03840	7	6.91	6	6.11	3	3.10	1	1.04
Carbon Monoxide Poisoning - 98600	1	0.99	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
Cryptosporidiosis - 13680	1	0.99	0	0.00	1	1.03	0	0.00
Dengue Fever - 06100	0	0.00	1	1.02	0	0.00	0	0.00
<u>Ehrlichiosis/Anaplasmosis, HME (Ehrlichia chaffeensis)</u> - 08382	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	1.03	1	1.04
Escherichia coli, Shiga Toxin-Producing (STEC) Infection - 00800	1	0.99	0	0.00	1	1.03	0	0.00
Giardiasis - 00710	0	0.00	4	4.07	0	0.00	0	0.00
Hepatitis A - 07010	0	0.00	1	1.02	0	0.00	0	0.00
Hepatitis B, Acute - 07030	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	1.04
Hepatitis B, Chronic - 07032	5	4.94	6	6.11	3	3.10	2	2.09
Hepatitis B, Surface Antigen in Pregnant Women - 07039	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	1.03	0	0.00
Hepatitis C, Acute - 07051	1	0.99	1	1.02	0	0.00	0	0.00
Hepatitis C, Chronic - 07054	51	50.37	28	28.50	14	14.49	22	22.96
Lead Poisoning - 94890	0	0.00	0	0.00	2	2.07	8	8.35
<u>Legionellosis</u> - 48280	2	1.98	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
Lyme Disease - 06959	1	0.99	0	0.00	0	0.00	2	2.09
Monkey Bite - 07103	0	0.00	1	1.02	0	0.00	0	0.00
Pertussis - 03390	2	1.98	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
Pesticide-Related Illness or Injury, Acute - 09894	0	0.00	1	1.02	0	0.00	0	0.00
Rabies, Possible Exposure - 07101	1	0.99	11	11.20	4	4.14	14	14.61
Rocky Mountain <u>Spotted Fever</u> - 08200	1	0.99	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
Salmonellosis - 00300	3	2.96	1	1.02	3	3.10	4	4.18
<u>Strep pneumoniae</u> Invasive Disease, Drug-Resistant - 04823	2	1.98	1	1.02	3	3.10	3	3.13
<u>Strep pneumoniae</u> Invasive Disease, Drug-Susceptible - 04830	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	1.03	3	3.13
Streptococcal Invasive Disease (Group A) - 03400	2	1.98	1	1.02	0	0.00	0	0.00
Varicella (Chickenpox) - 05290	2	1.98	0	0.00	3	3.10	2	2.09
Total:	83	82.01	63	64.15	40	41.35	64	66.80

HEALTH OFFICIALS CONFIRM FIRST MERS-CoV CASE IN FLORIDA

Florida Department of Health working with CDC and Hospital Officials

The Florida Department of Health has recently confirmed the first Florida case of Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus (MERS-CoV) infection in a patient at an Orlando hospital.

"The Florida Department of Health is working closely with hospital officials and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to ensure appropriate care of the patient and protect the health of all residents and visitors in Florida," said Dr. John Armstrong, State Surgeon General and Secretary of Health. "There is no broad risk to the health of the general public."

The patient is in good condition and is improving," according to an Infectious Disease Specialist and Chief Quality Officer for Dr. P. Phillips Hospital. every precaution is being taken to prevent the risk of transmission from the patient. The patient was visiting the United States from Saudi Arabia. The patient first flew to London and then through Boston and Atlanta, arriving in Orlando on May 1. The patient was hospitalized on May 9 and was placed in isolation once MERS-CoV was suspected. Efforts are underway to make contact with any individuals who had close contact with the patient during travel or in the Orlando area. The patient remains in stable condition and is receiving appropriate care.

MERS-CoV infection is a viral respiratory illness that was first reported in Saudi Arabia in 2012. MERS-CoV transmission has occurred in hospital settings, but there is no evidence of sustained spread in communities. How the virus emerged is unknown. There is no available vaccine or specific treatment for the virus.

Symptoms of MERS-CoV are similar to those of the flu and include:

- Congestion
- Cough
- Fever over 100.4
- Shortness of breath
- Pneumonia
- Body aches
- Diarrhea

MERS-CoV is a reminder of the **precautions** that everyone can take to protect themselves, their families, and their communities from any communicable diseases:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth. Germs spread this way.
- Stay at home when you are sick, and avoiding close contact with sick people.

For more information, please visit the following websites:

- Middle East Respiratory Syndrome: <http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/mers/index.html>
- About Coronavirus: <http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/about/index.html>
- Frequently Asked MERS Questions and Answers: <http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/mers/faq.html>

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

For more information about the Florida Department of Health please visit www.floridahealth.gov.