



Jeb Bush
Governor

John O. Agwunobi, M.D., M.B.A.
Secretary

LEE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT
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For Immediate Release

Date: July 25, 2003
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MEDICAL ALERT

WEST NILE VIRUS MEDICAL ALERT DECLARED IN LEE COUNTY

County Health Department Announces County's First Human Case Of West Nile Virus

Lee County Health Department Director Judith Hartner, M.D., M.P.H. today announced that Florida Department of Health Secretary John O. Agwunobi, M.D., M.B.A., has declared a Medical Alert for Lee County after a human case of West Nile Virus (WNV) was reported. The patient is a 55-year old female resident of Lee County.

Symptoms of WNV may include fever, headache, fatigue, dizziness, weakness and confusion. It may also cause muscle weakness. People 50 years of age and older tend to be more severely affected by the disease.

Although mosquito bites are a common occurrence, less than one person in ten will actually come in contact with an infected insect. Most infected people will not even be aware that they have been infected, although some may experience flu-like symptoms, which normally pass quickly and do not require medical care.

And more remote is the chance of becoming severely ill with West Nile encephalitis or meningitis - less than 1% of those infected will actually become severely ill.

In order to prevent the potential spread of West Nile Virus and other mosquito borne illnesses, the Lee County Health Department and Lee County Mosquito Control District advise Lee County residents and visitors to take increased precautions to guard against mosquito bites.

Note: Florida residents are encouraged to report dead bird sightings through the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission website at www.wildflorida.org/bird.

Follow the 5 D's:

- **Dusk and Dawn** (avoid being outdoors when mosquitoes are feeding)
- **Dress** (wear clothing that covers the skin)
- **DEET** (use mosquito repellents including 30% DEET (N, N diethyl-m-tolumide) on skin or pyrethrins on clothing when you are outside)
- **Drainage** (check your home to rid it of standing water in which mosquitoes can lay their eggs)

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