



FOR IMMEDIATE NEWS RELEASE
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Contact: Howard Rosen
954-467-4854 or
James Cresanta, M.D.
954-467-4865
Joy Griffiths, R.N.
954-847-3865

MEDICAL ALERT ISSUED FOR BROWARD COUNTY
--Human Case of West Nile Encephalitis Confirmed--

Today, Broward County Health Department Director, David L. Roach announced that Florida Department of Health (DOH) Secretary John O. Agwunobi, M.D., M.B.A., has issued a medical alert for Broward County after a human case of West Nile (WN) encephalitis was confirmed in a 56-year-old male resident.

Physicians should contact the Broward County Health Department if they suspect an individual may meet the case definition for a mosquito-borne illness. DOH laboratories provide testing services for physicians treating patients with clinical signs of mosquito-borne disease.

DOH continues to advise the public to remain diligent in their personal mosquito protection efforts. 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** (wear clothing that covers skin)
- **DEET** (use mosquito repellents including DEET [N, N diethyl-*m*-toluamide] on skin and pyrethrins on clothing when you are outside)
- **Drainage** (check your home to rid it of standing water in which mosquitoes can lay their eggs)

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.

DOH continues to conduct statewide surveillance for mosquito borne illnesses, including West Nile (WN) virus, Eastern Equine Encephalomyelitis (EEE), St. Louis Encephalitis (SLE), malaria, and dengue.

Residents of Florida are encouraged to report dead birds by calling the West Nile Virus Hotline at 1-888-880-5782, or via the Web site <http://www.wildflorida.org/bird>. For more information on mosquito-borne illnesses, visit DOH's Environmental Health website at

<http://www.doh.state.fl.us/Environment/hsee/arbo/index.htm>, or the Broward County Health Department's website at <http://www.browardchd.org/>.