



Public Information Bulletin

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT

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Marianna --Jackson County Health Department officials are issuing the following lab results:

Jackson County has five new cases of West Nile Virus from dead birds submitted to the Health Department. Four were Crows submitted from September 10 through September 15. One was from Mill Road, Alford, one was from Wolf Pond Road, Greenwood, one from Dogwood Street, Marianna, and one from Five Points Road, Cottondale. The other bird was a Blue Jay from Flamingo Lane, Marianna, submitted on September 18th. We also have another positive Sentinel Chicken from the flock housed in the Graceville area. This brings our total to 29 West Nile positive birds and two Sentinel Chickens so far this year. All tested positive for the virus according to lab results from the Florida Department of Health's Tampa Branch Lab. West Nile is transmitted by mosquitoes that bite infected birds. No cases of human infection have been reported in Jackson County this year.

The Jackson County Health Department has been conducting dead bird surveillance all year from sightings of dead birds reported by the public. According to Bill Dean, Environmental Health Director, "the only birds that can be submitted for lab analysis are those that are fresh dead." Please remember to use zip lock bags and double bag the fresh dead birds. Also, please note that the Health Department cannot receive live birds. Please

report dead birds not submitted to the Health Department on the internet web site: www.wildflorida.org/bird/

See the DOH web site for the latest surveillance information: <http://www.doh.state.fl.us/Environment/hsee/arbo/index.htm>

According to Dean “prevention is the key. The best way to reduce your risk of infection is to avoid getting mosquito bites. Follow the “5 D’s and one S”:

- **Dusk and Dawn** (avoid being outdoors when mosquitoes are feeding)
- **Dress** (wear clothing that covers the skin)
- **Deet** (use mosquito repellents including DEET (N, N diethyl-m-tolamide) 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)
- **Screens** (check your home for torn or holey screens)

“With the cool weather we have been experiencing at night and with Fall starting this week, screening on windows should be checked if you are opening up your house to enjoy the cool weather”, Dean commented. “Also, you can destroy breeding places for mosquitoes by making sure all containers around your house are emptied of water. Please look for standing water in places such as roof gutters, wheel borrows, old tires, flower pots, folds of tarps, pet watering containers, bird baths, and any other place water may stand for days after a rain. Please do your part to reduce the mosquito population.”