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Sarasota County Update on Mosquito-borne Diseases

The Sarasota County Health Department announced that officials have confirmed a second case of West Nile virus in a 72 year-old male Sarasota County resident. Health officials say that although the individual may have been exposed during a recent vacation to another state, it is important for residents to remember that West Nile virus can be present year-round in Florida and is on the increase in other states.

Symptoms of West Nile virus may include headache, fever, fatigue, dizziness, weakness and confusion. People who believe they may have West Nile virus should contact their health care provider. Florida Department of Health (DOH) laboratories provide testing services for physicians treating patients with clinical signs of mosquito-borne disease.

Mosquito activity remains very low in Sarasota County. None of the county's nine flocks of sentinel chickens have tested positive for West Nile Virus in recent months. Sarasota County Mosquito Management officials say that mosquito activity is expected to increase in Sarasota County with the arrival of summer rains. With the holiday weekend approaching, picnics, camping and other outdoor activities can still be enjoyed provided residents observe the **5Ds** to prevent mosquito-causing diseases such as West Nile Virus, St. Louis Encephalitis Eastern Equine Encephalomyelitis (EEE), Dengue, and Malaria:

- **Dusk and Dawn** -- Avoid being outdoors when mosquitoes are seeking blood, for many species this is during the dusk and dawn hours.
 - **Dress** -- 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). If additional protection is necessary, apply a permethrin repellent directly to your clothing. Always read the manufacturer's directions carefully before you put on a repellent.
 - **Drainage** -- Check your home to rid it of standing water in which mosquitoes can lay their eggs.
- AND
- **Screens** -- - Make sure that windows remain closed or are sealed completely by screens at night.

Residents are also strongly encouraged to eliminate places where mosquitoes can breed. Sarasota County Mosquito Management officials are available to assist residents in identifying and eliminating places around their homes where mosquitoes gather and breed.

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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.

Residents of Florida are encouraged to report dead bird sightings at www.wildflorida.org/bird .

For tips on ways to reduce mosquito-breeding sites and to report a mosquito problem or to find out when and where there will be spraying for biting, adult mosquitoes, contact Sarasota County Mosquito Management at (941) 861-9740 or log on to Mosquito Management's website at <http://scgov.net/> . For health or medical questions related to mosquitoes or to report dead birds, call the Sarasota County Health Department's Communicable Disease Control Office at (941) 861-2873. or call the West Nile Virus Hotline at 1-888-880-5782.

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