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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Eastern Equine Encephalitis identified in Lake County Horse

Residents urged to take proper precautions

Eustis – The Lake County Health Department received notification yesterday that a horse in north east Lake County has tested positive for Eastern Equine Encephalitis. It is the third reported case of EEE in a Lake County horse this year. EEE is caused by a virus that is transmitted by mosquitoes and can infect humans. The Health Department urges residents 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** – when possible, 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).
- **Drainage** (check your home to rid it of standing water in which mosquitoes can lay their eggs)

In addition to repellents containing DEET, the CDC has adopted guidance that recommends two new active ingredients in repellants – picaridin and oil of lemon eucalyptus – which have been shown to offer protection against mosquitoes.

The health department is also recommending that horse and livestock owners contact their veterinarian about animal vaccinations.

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.

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