



Charlie Crist
Governor

Ana M. Viamonte Ros, M.D., M.P.H.
State Surgeon General

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Dear Travel Clinic Providers,

We would like to alert you to the epidemic levels of dengue being reported worldwide, with case numbers reaching 20 year highs in parts of the Caribbean and Central and South America. Dengue is also present in Key West, Florida. There is no protective vaccine or prophylaxis available for dengue. Therefore it is imperative that international travelers to tropical and subtropical regions of the world use appropriate mosquito-bite prevention precautions:

- Dress so skin is covered (light-weight/light-colored clothing in the tropics)
- Apply EPA-approved mosquito repellent such as DEET, Picaridin and oil of lemon eucalyptus to bare skin or clothing when mosquitoes are active
 - Detailed information on appropriate use of repellents for infants, children and adults can be found at:
http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/qa/insect_repellent.htm
 - Infants should be kept indoors or mosquito netting should be used over carriers when mosquitoes are present
 - Recommended concentrations of DEET are 10-30%
 - Consider wearing permethrin-embedded clothing (do **not** apply permethrin directly to skin); permethrin may be applied to tents and equipment as well as clothing
- Stay indoors when mosquitoes are most active
- Stay in facilities with screened windows and doors and air conditioning to reduce risk of mosquito bites

For more information about travelers and dengue from CDC please see the attached health alert and webpage <http://www.cdc.gov/dengue/travelOutbreaks/index.html> or contact your local county health department. For more current information related to dengue and malaria in Florida travelers, as well as current arbovirus surveillance data (West Nile virus, eastern equine encephalitis virus, dengue virus) for human and animal sentinels in Florida, please see: <http://myfloridaeh.com/medicine/arboviral/index.html>. Thank you for your assistance protecting Florida travelers and also in preventing re-introduction of dengue to Florida!

Sincerely,

Carina Blackmore, DVM, PhD
State Public Health Veterinarian

Richard S. Hopkins, MD, MSPH
Acting State Epidemiologist