

EpiNews

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SPOTLIGHT: ARBOVIRUSES STILL ACTIVE IN FLORIDA

Due to the increasing arboviral activity in Florida, the Department of Health recommends people to continue taking the following precautionary measures:

- Avoid outdoor activities when mosquitoes are active, especially at dusk and dawn;
- If you must be outdoors when mosquitoes are active, cover up by wearing shoes, socks, long pants and a long-sleeved shirt. Additional protection can be obtained by applying permethrin repellent directly to clothing;
- For adults and children older than two months of age, the best protection is achieved by using mosquito repellent containing 30 percent DEET (N,N-Diethyl-meta-toluamide also called N,N-diethyl-3-methylbenzamide) according to manufacturer's directions. Greater concentrations provide no additional benefits and risk increased incidence of side effects. For children younger than two months of age DEET is not recommended; use protective clothing and cover with mosquito netting; and
- Eliminate stagnant water in birdbaths, ponds and other receptacles in which mosquitoes might breed by emptying or changing.

Below are press release highlights of some of the more recent arboviral events in the state.

The First Case Of Human St. Louis Encephalitis Reported

PENSACOLA - Florida Department of Health Escambia County Health Department, 10/17/02, reported a 51-year-old Escambia County resident as having contracted St. Louis Encephalitis (SLE). SLE is another mosquito-borne viral disease that can cause inflammation and swelling of the brain in people. In an average year, Florida typically experiences a few SLE cases. Outbreaks have occurred in Florida and tend to occur every 7-10 years. A large outbreak in 1990 resulted in 223 reported cases, while a 1997 outbreak recorded nine cases. Prior to this report, there had been no cases in Escambia County for over 10 years.

The symptoms of SLE are identical to that of West Nile Virus and include: fever, headache, stiff neck, nausea, vomiting, rash, swollen lymph nodes, fatigue, dizziness, weakness, confusion, and in the most severe cases, coma and death.

Treatment for SLE is supportive and, for severe cases, involves hospitalization, intravenous fluids, respiratory support, and the prevention of secondary infection. Potential new treatments are under development.

Florida Reports Twelfth Case Of West Nile Virus Encephalitis

TALLAHASSEE - The Florida Department of Health (DOH) on October 11, 2002, confirmed West Nile (WN) virus encephalitis in a 71-year-old Escambia County resident. This is Florida's 12th case this year, and the fifth in Escambia County, which is among the following 24 counties currently under medical alert for WN virus: Alachua, Brevard, Charlotte, Escambia, Flagler, Hernando, Hillsborough, Indian River, Lake, Lee, Manatee, Marion, Orange, Osceola, Palm Beach, Pasco, Pinellas, Polk, Putnam, Sarasota, Seminole, St. Johns, Sumter and Volusia counties. The other 11 cases have occurred in Lake, Orange, Polk, Sarasota, Sumter, Marion and Miami-Dade counties.

DOH continues to conduct statewide surveillance for arboviruses, including West Nile (WN) virus, Eastern Equine Encephalomyelitis (EEE) and St. Louis Encephalitis (SLE). Residents of Florida are encouraged to report dead birds by calling the West Nile Virus Hotline at 1-800-871-9703, or via the Web site www.wildflorida.org/bird/. For more information on SLE and other arboviral diseases, visit the DOH Bureau of Epidemiology's Web site at www.doh.state.fl.us (click on Epidemiology, then Health Topics), call the Bureau's hotline at 1-888-880-5782 for recorded information, or call your local county health department.

**Communicable Diseases and Selected Public Health Indices
Palm Beach County, Florida**

**Enteric, Hepatitis, Meningitis, AIDS, HIV, STD, TB,
Live Births, Infant Deaths, Foodborne Outbreaks,
Childhood Lead Testing**

**2nd Quarter
April – June 2002**

	Number This Qtr.	Number To Date This Yr.	Number To Date Last Yr.
<i>Enteric, Hepatitis, Meningitis</i>			
Campylobacteriosis	18	36	31
Shigellosis	18	36	10
Salmonellosis	58	93	55
Giardiasis	23	38	20
Hepatitis A	10	17	12
Hepatitis B	6	16	23
Meningitis & Invasive Disease due to Neisseria Meningitidis	3	6	1
Meningitis & Invasive Disease due to Haemophilus Influenzae	5	10	7
<i>AIDS</i>			
# New AIDS Cases Reported (Adult/Adolescent)	158	317	243
<i>HIV***</i>			
# HIV Tested	3349	6433	5169
# HIV Positive	99	202	197
% HIV Positive	3.0	3.1	3.8
<i>STD</i>			
Primary/Secondary Syphilis	2	9	18
Congenital Syphilis	1	2	2
Gonorrhea	195	378	418
Chlamydia	512	1009	899
<i>Tuberculosis</i>			
Total Tuberculosis Cases	19	49	41
Total Tuberculosis Cases <15 Yrs. of Age	2	5	1
<i>Live Births</i>			
Total Infant Births	3378	6657	6489
Infant Births, White	2409	4761	4474
Infant Births, Non-White	969	1895	2005
<i>Infant Deaths</i>			
Total Infant Deaths	28	59	46
Infant Deaths, White	11	29	21
Infant Deaths, Non-White	17	30	25
<i>Food Related Complaints and Outbreaks</i>			
Number of Complaints	60	126	174
Suspected Foodborne Illness Outbreaks	8	11	10
Confirmed Foodborne Illness Outbreaks	0	0	1
<i>Childhood Lead Testing</i>			
Lead Poisoning	16	24	20

Data provided is provisional

N/A = Not Applicable

***Data Representing PBCHD clients only

**Data Unavailable

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