



Jeb Bush
Governor

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Secretary

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**SENTINEL CHICKEN FLOCK TO GET A REST
PALM BEACH COUNTY, FL**—Early detection and sentinel methods for mosquito borne

disease confirmed three new positives for West Nile Virus on a retest from early December. No new cases have been evident for the past two weeks in the county. Testing will be discontinued until mid-January following replacement of the existing sentinel chicken flock.

Since January 2003 over 28 mosquito pools, 10 wild birds and 106 sentinel chickens have tested positive for the disease. Throughout the State there have been 88 human cases of West Nile Virus, none have been in Palm Beach County.

Health Department Director, Dr. Jean Malecki commented, **“We are pleased that the mosquito population is diminishing with the cooler weather. However, I would like to remind people to continue to take preventive measures against mosquito bites.”**

Malecki recommends:

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, repellants containing DEET (N,N-diethyl-meta-toluamide, or N,N-diethyl-3-methylbenzamide) are recommended. Products with concentrations of 30% DEET are generally recommended for most situations. (It is not recommended to use DEET on children less than two 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 repellant directly to your clothing. Always read the manufacturer's directions carefully before you put on a repellant.
- **Drainage**—Check your home to rid it of standing water in which mosquitoes can lay their eggs.

More



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Page 2 chicken report

- **Screens**—Make sure doors and windows remain closed and sealed completely by screens at night.

The signs and symptoms for West Nile Virus and other mosquito borne diseases may include headache, fever, fatigue, dizziness, weakness and confusion. Persons experiencing these symptoms should seek medical attention.

Those seeking medical advice on mosquito borne diseases can call the Palm Beach County Health Department at 561-840-4564 or the State of Florida Epidemiology Department at 1-888-880-5782.

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