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**PRESS RELEASE 10-8-04  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**WEST NILE VIRUS EVIDENCE CONTINUES IN COUNTY**

**PALM BEACH COUNTY, FL**— The sentinel chicken program for the early detection of West Nile Virus got back underway this week following delays resulting from Hurricanes Jeanne and Frances. To date 22 chickens have tested positive for WNV as well as one mosquito pool. The mosquito population among nuisance mosquitoes remains very high throughout the county and the Culex populations that can carry WNV and other disease have favorable conditions for continued population increases. Palm Beach County Health Department Officials have issued an advisory to all residents that mosquito borne diseases are present and all should protect themselves from mosquito bites.

Health Officials Recommend:

- Avoid outdoor activities when mosquitoes are most active (normally at dusk and dawn).
- If you must be outdoors when mosquitoes are active, cover up by wearing shoes, socks, long pants and long-sleeved shirts.
- Use mosquito repellent containing DEET according to the manufacturer's label directions.
- Eliminate stagnant water in birdbaths, ponds, gutters and other receptacles in which mosquitoes might breed.
- Be sure doors and window screens are tight fitting and in good repair.

To date, 34 of the 67 counties in Florida have reported West Nile Activity.



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Mosquito Control is continuing its efforts to reduce the mosquito populations throughout the county with aerial spraying. A mosquito hotline has been set up to advise on when and where mosquito spraying is taking place. The number is 561-642-8775.

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

Those seeking medical advice on West Nile Virus can call the Palm Beach County Health Department at 561-840-4500 or the State of Florida Epidemiology Department at 1-888-880-5782.

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