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**PRESS RELEASE 9-17-04
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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WEST NILE VIRUS EVIDENCE CONTINUES COUNTY

PALM BEACH COUNTY, FL— One mosquito pool in the Acreage tested positive for WNV and no sentinel chickens were confirmed positive for the disease this week. The mosquito population among nuisance mosquitoes are very high throughout the county and the Culex populations which can carry the West Nile Virus and other diseases have had high counts in Boca Raton and central county west of SR 7/441 Health Officials are urging all residents to 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 and other receptacles in which mosquitoes might breed.
- Be sure doors and window screens are tight fitting and in good repair.

To date, 33 of the 67 counties in Florida have reported West Nile Activity and there have been 27 human cases of the virus in the state through September 11, 2004.

More

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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 561-840-4564 or the State of Florida Epidemiology Department at 1-888-880-5782.

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