



**PRESS RELEASE 10-24-03
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**MOSQUITO BORNE DISEASE STILL PRESENT THROUGHOUT COUNTY
PALM BEACH COUNTY, FL**—All early detection and sentinel methods for mosquito borne

disease continue to confirm the presence of West Nile Virus throughout the county.

7 sentinel chickens from West Palm Beach to Boca Raton and west to Belle Glade were confirmed to be carrying West Nile Virus this week and six others were presumed positive bringing this year's total to 73. To date over 27 mosquito pools and 10 wild birds have also tested positive for the disease. Throughout the State there have been 67 human cases of West Nile Virus.

Palm Beach County Health Department Director, Dr. Jean Malecki commented, "**The county remains under a medical alert for mosquito borne disease and I continue to warn all people to prevent mosquito bites.**" Malecki added that parents should follow the following recommendations especially when children are outside Halloween night.

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.

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Jeb Bush
Governor

John O. Agwunobi, M.D., M.B.A.
Secretary

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

Mosquito Control is continuing its efforts to reduce the mosquito populations throughout the county through target spraying. The overall mosquito population is reported to be average and conditions remain unfavorable for an increase in the mosquito population. Problem areas with mosquitoes should be reported to Mosquito Control at 561-967-6480.

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.

To report dead wild birds contact the Health Department at 561-355-3070 or Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

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