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PRESS RELEASE 12-28-2009
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SENTINEL CHICKENS CONTINUE WEST NILE VIRUS WATCH

PALM BEACH COUNTY, FL—The Palm Beach County Health Department's early detection system for mosquito borne diseases, the sentinel chickens, continue to show evidence of West Nile Virus in mosquitoes throughout the county. The first confirmation came in mid November in central Palm Beach County and the latest came today from the western regions. No human cases of the disease have been reported.

"We are constantly monitoring chickens we have placed throughout the county," said Health Director Dr. Alina Alonso. "These birds are an excellent way to discover mosquito borne diseases in our area. This early detection is also a great way to advise people on preventive measures everyone can take."

Dr. Alonso advises,

- Limit your exposure by not going outside at dusk or dawn.
- If you are outside, avoid getting bitten by wearing long sleeves, long pants, socks
- Use an insect repellent containing DEET.
- Drain any standing water from around your dwelling

Mosquito control continues with ground spraying throughout the county. The overall mosquito population is low at this time and conditions are not favorable for increased numbers.

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