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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SENTINEL CHICKEN CONFIRMS FIRST WEST NILE VIRUS IN TWO YEARS

PALM BEACH COUNTY, FL—The Palm Beach County Health Department's early detection system for mosquito borne diseases, the sentinel chickens, confirmed a positive for West Nile Virus in central county today. This is the first confirmation since November 2007.

"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 is scheduled to do some ground spraying in Central County. The overall mosquito population is low at this time and conditions are not favorable for increased numbers.

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