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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SENTINEL CHICKENS CONFIRM WEST NILE VIRUS IN WEST

PALM BEACH COUNTY, FL—The Palm Beach County Health Department's early detection system for mosquito borne diseases, the sentinel chickens, confirmed three positives for West Nile Virus in the western region of the county today. This is the first confirmation this year.

“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.”

Another mosquito borne disease Dengue Fever has had Floridians on watch since being discovered in Key West earlier this year. Yesterday Broward County reported a locally acquired case of this disease.

Dr. Alonso advises to be watchful for possible exposure through a mosquito biting.

- 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
- Be sure screens are in good repair

Mosquito control is continuing its efforts to reduce the mosquito population through spraying.

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