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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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MOSQUITO BORNE DISEASE ADVISORIES AND ALERTS LIFTED

Palm Beach County, FL— The Palm Beach County Health Department has lifted the mosquito borne disease alert for Dengue and the advisory for West Nile Virus that were in effect the last quarter of 2011.

“We continue monitoring for all mosquito borne diseases and encourage all to keep up their mosquito bite prevention methods,” said Health Department Director Alina Alonso, MD. Dr. Alonso added there have been no reported locally acquired cases of these diseases for several months which prompted the alert removal.

In October two people were diagnosed with locally acquired Dengue which prompted the alert and in early December laboratory confirmation of an individual having West Nile Virus prompted the advisory to be continued. The Dengue cases were the first in the county since the 1930's and it had been five years since the last human case of West Nile Virus was confirmed in the area. These diseases are not transmitted person to person and are only acquired through the bite of a mosquito.

To help protect against mosquito bites people should **drain** any standing water from around the home or business as mosquitoes can leave their eggs in the smallest water reservoirs. All are also advised to **cover** their windows with screens in good condition, use air conditioning when possible and cover themselves with light weight long sleeve clothing and pants. Insect repellants containing DEET or picaridin are also effective in preventing the mosquito from biting.

Persons experiencing symptoms should see their medical provider or if severe visit the nearest hospital or clinic.

Further information can be obtained by visiting the Department of Health Website at www.doh.state.fl.us, or the Palm Beach County Health Department site at www.pbchd.com.

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