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Drain and cover

Levy County remains under a mosquito-borne illness alert

By Jeff M. Hardison © April 3, 2018 at 2:18 p.m.

BRONSON -- The Florida Department of Health in Levy County (DOH-Levy) on March 7 issued a mosquito-borne illness alert for Levy County, and there remains a call for people to take care to avoid mosquitos.



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2018 Arbovirus Activity by County	
County	Arbovirus Activity
Citrus	EEEV: 1 sentinel (1/8)
Columbia	EEEV: 1 horse (3/5)
Flagler	EEEV: 1 horse (3/6)
Hillsborough	WNV: 7 sentinels (1/10, 1/16, 2/13, 3/6, 3/13)
Levy	EEEV: 2 horses (2/24, 3/5), emu flock outbreak (3/2 for first emu)
Manatee	WNV: 2 sentinels (1/9, 2/13)
Marion	EEEV: 1 horse (2/28)
Nassau	EEEV: 1 horse (1/29)
Orange	WNV: 1 sentinel (1/10) EEEV: 2 sentinels (2/27, 3/13)
Polk	EEEV: 1 horse (2/27)
Putnam	EEEV: 1 emu (2/13)
Sarasota	WNV: 2 sentinels (1/12, 2/2)
St. Johns	EEEV: 1 horse (1/9)
Walton	WNV: 7 sentinels (1/9, 1/22, 1/23, 2/26) EEEV: 3 sentinels (2/5, 3/5, 3/19)

A case of **Eastern Equine Encephalitis** has been confirmed in a flock of Emus in the Bronson area and there is a heightened concern that residents could become ill.

THIS ALERT REMAINS IN EFFECT FOR ALL OF CALENDAR YEAR 2018 IN LEVY COUNTY.

DOH-Levy continues to advise the public to remain diligent in their personal mosquito protection efforts by remembering to “Drain and Cover.”

DRAIN standing water to stop mosquitoes from multiplying.

- Drain water from garbage cans, house gutters, buckets, pool covers, coolers, toys, flower pots or any other containers where sprinkler or rain water has collected.
- Discard old tires, drums, bottles, cans, pots and pans, broken appliances and other items that aren't being used.
- Empty and clean birdbaths and pet's water bowls at least once or twice a week
- Protect boats and vehicles from rain with tarps that don't accumulate water.
- Maintain swimming pools in good condition and appropriately chlorinated. Empty plastic swimming pools when not in use.

COVER skin with clothing or repellent.

- Clothing - Wear shoes, socks, and long pants and long-sleeves. This type of protection may be necessary for people who must work in areas where mosquitoes are present.

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- Repellent - Apply mosquito repellent to bare skin and clothing.
 - Always use repellents according to the label. Repellents with DEET, picaridin, oil of lemon eucalyptus, para-menthane-diol, and IR3535 are effective.
 - Use mosquito netting to protect children younger than 2 months old.
- COVER** doors and windows with screens to keep mosquitoes out of your house. Repair broken screening on windows, doors, porches, and patios.

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## UPDATE

The Week of March 25-31 Florida Arbovirus Surveillance shows only Levy County is under a mosquito-borne illness advisory or alert. No other county in Florida is under an advisory or alert as of now.

An alert is when a disease is found in an animal other than a human, said Wesley Asbell Of the Florida Department of Health - Environmental Health (Levy-Dixie-Gilchrist counties).

An advisory is when a human shows the mosquito-borne illness. Asbell said he is thankful that no humans in the Tri-County Area have shown symptoms of Eastern equine encephalitis this year. The season for mosquito bites is just starting.

The Arbovirus surveillance in Florida includes endemic mosquito-borne viruses such as West Nile virus (WNV), Eastern equine encephalitis virus (EEEV), and St. Louis encephalitis virus (SLEV), as well as exotic viruses such as dengue virus (DENV), chikungunya virus (CHIKV) and California encephalitis group viruses (CEV). Malaria, a parasitic mosquito-borne disease is also included.

During the period of March 25-31, the following arboviral activity was recorded in Florida.

- WNV activity: No human cases of WNV infection were reported this week. No horses with WNV infection were reported this week. One sentinel chicken tested positive for antibodies to WNV this week in Hillsborough County. In 2018, positive samples from nineteen sentinel chickens have been reported from five counties.

- SLEV activity: No human cases of SLEV infection were reported this week. No sentinel chickens tested positive for antibodies to SLEV this week. In 2018, there have been no positive samples reported.

- EEEV activity: No human cases of EEEV infection were reported this week. No horses with EEEV infection were reported this week. One sentinel chicken tested positive for antibodies to EEEV this week in Walton County. In 2018, positive samples from eight horses, one emu, one emu flock, and six sentinel chickens have been reported from 11 counties.

- International Travel-Associated Dengue Fever Cases: No cases of dengue fever were reported this week in persons that had international travel. In 2018, one travel-associated case has been reported.

- Dengue Fever Cases Acquired in Florida: No cases of locally acquired dengue fever were reported this week. In 2018, no cases of locally acquired dengue fever have been reported.

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- International Travel-Associated Chikungunya Fever Cases: No cases of chikungunya fever were reported this week in persons that had international travel. In 2018, one travel-associated case has been reported.

- Chikungunya Fever Cases Acquired in Florida: No cases of locally acquired chikungunya fever were reported this week. In 2018, no cases of locally acquired chikungunya fever have been reported.

International Travel-Associated Zika Fever Cases: One case of Zika fever was reported this week in a person that had international travel. In 2018, 24 cases have been reported.

- Zika Fever Cases Acquired in Florida: No cases of locally acquired Zika fever were reported this week. In 2018, no cases of locally acquired Zika fever have been reported.

- **Advisories/Alerts: Levy County is currently under a mosquito-borne illness alert. No other Florida counties are currently under mosquito-borne illness advisory or alert.**

There are no areas of ongoing, active Zika transmission in Florida.

**There is a Level 2 (Alert) Travel Health Notice from the CDC for multiple countries in the Caribbean, Central and South America, Mexico, Cape Verde, Southeast Asia, and Pacific Islands related to Zika virus transmission and an association with poor pregnancy outcomes. Pregnant women should consider postponing travel to these areas. There is also a Level 2 Travel Health Notice for Brazil and a Level 1 Travel Health Notice in Nigeria related to the transmission of yellow fever virus. There is also a Level 1 Travel Health Notice for Sri Lanka related to the transmission of dengue virus.**