

For Immediate Release:
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DOH-HARDEE ISSUES MOSQUITO-BORNE ILLNESS ALERT



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Hardee County, Fla. – The Florida Department of Health in Hardee County (DOH-Hardee) is issuing a mosquito-borne illness alert following confirmation of multiple human [dengue fever](#) cases. Additional cases are under investigation. DOH-Hardee is working with state and local officials to perform mosquito surveillance and mosquito control measures, including spraying with backpacks, trucks, and airplanes in and around neighborhoods.

Dengue is a viral infection that spreads from mosquitos to people. Dengue fever symptoms usually lasts 4 to 7 days. The disease is often diagnosed incorrectly because the symptoms are similar to influenza and other viruses. More severe forms of dengue are rare, but possible. Pregnant women should take precautions in mosquito prevention efforts as dengue can pass to the baby during pregnancy or around the time of birth. Additional information regarding dengue fever can be found [here](#).

DOH-Hardee advises residents to remain diligent in their personal mosquito protection efforts by remembering to “**Drain and Cover.**”

MOSQUITOES CAN SPREAD ILLNESS

Protect Yourself with Repellent



Always read label directions carefully for the approved usage before you apply a repellent.



Apply insect repellent to exposed skin or clothing, but not under clothing.



Treat clothing and gear with products containing 0.5% permethrin. Do not apply permethrin directly to skin.



Some repellents are not suitable for children. Ensure repellent is safe for children and age appropriate.



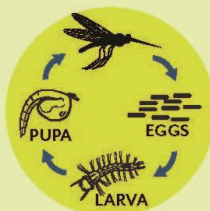
Around Buildings

At least once a week, empty or cover anything that could hold water, such as:

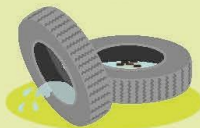
- Buckets
- Toys
- Child Pools and Pool Covers
- Birdbaths
- Trash, Containers, and Recycling Bins
- Boat or Car Covers
- Roof Gutters
- Coolers
- Pet Dishes
- Tires

Stop Mosquitoes from Breeding

Mosquitoes can live indoors and will bite at any time, day or night.



Mosquitoes breed by laying eggs in and near standing water.



As little as one teaspoon or bottle cap of water standing for more than one week is enough for mosquitoes to breed and multiply.



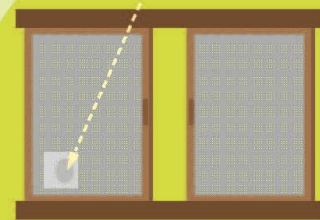
Keep them Outside

Use Air Conditioning

Keep Screens on All Windows



Repair Holes in Screens



Keep Doors Exterior Windows Closed

The Florida Department of Health continues to conduct statewide surveillance for mosquito-borne illnesses, including West Nile virus infections, Eastern equine encephalitis, St. Louis encephalitis, malaria, chikungunya, and dengue.

For more information, please visit the Florida Department of Health's [website](#) or call DOH-Hardee at 863-773-4161.

About the Florida Department of Health

The Department, nationally accredited by the [Public Health Accreditation Board](#), works to protect, promote and improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county and community efforts.

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