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PINELLAS COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Mosquito-Borne Illness Alert Lifted for Pinellas County

The mosquito-borne illness alert issued in July 2005 for Pinellas County has been lifted. Surveillance data indicates that the risk of human infection has decreased. Although mosquito-borne illnesses are less common in the winter months, it is important that individuals continue to observe proper precautions to avoid being bitten by mosquitoes that may cause disease.

The Florida Department of Health (DOH) recommends personal mosquito protection efforts should include the “5 D’s” for prevention:

- **Dusk and Dawn** – Avoid being outdoors when mosquitoes are seeking blood. For many species, this is during the dusk and dawn hours.
- **Dress** – Wear clothing that covers most of your skin.
- **DEET** – When the potential exists for exposure to mosquitoes, repellents containing DEET (N,N-diethyl-meta-toluamide, or N,N-diethyl-3-methylbenzamide) are recommended. Picaridin and oil of lemon eucalyptus are other repellent options.
- **Drainage** – Check around your home to rid the area of standing water where mosquitoes can lay eggs.

In 2005, Florida reported 21 confirmed human West Nile virus (WN) cases, and five human Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) cases. During the 2005 season, medical alerts were issued for the following counties: Duval, Gadsden, Leon, Marion, Pasco, Pinellas, Polk and Suwannee. Medical advisories were issued for Alachua, Brevard, Hillsborough, Nassau and Walton counties.

DOH and the Pinellas County Health Department continue to conduct surveillance for mosquito-borne illnesses, including West Nile (WN) virus, Eastern Equine Encephalomyelitis (EEE), St. Louis Encephalitis (SLE), malaria and dengue. Residents of Florida are encouraged to report dead birds at <http://myfwc.com/bird/>. For more information on mosquito-borne illnesses, please visit DOH’s Environmental Health Web site at <http://www.doh.state.fl.us/environment/community/arboviral/index.htm>, call the West Nile Virus Hotline at 1-888-880-5782 or contact your local county health department.

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The mission of the Pinellas County Health Department is to promote, protect and improve the health and safety of residents and visitors through public and private community efforts.
www.PinellasHealth.com