



September 17, 2024

## EXPERTS ADVISE OF MOSQUITO-BORNE ILLNESS ALERT

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

#### **Pasco County Mosquito Control District Advises of Alert Following Local Dengue Virus Case**

*Pasco County, FL – September 17, 2024* – The Pasco County Mosquito Control District (PCMCD) is advising residents there has been an increase in mosquito-borne disease activity in areas of Pasco County. PCMCD is alerting the community to a confirmed case of locally acquired dengue virus in our area and informing there is a heightened concern additional residents will become ill. Symptom of dengue virus include; headache, fever, chills, muscle, bone and joint pain, nausea, vomiting, pain behind the eyes, rash.

In response to this public health concern, PCMCD is implementing increased surveillance and control measures in the area to mitigate the risk and prevent further transmission of the virus.

Dengue virus is primarily spread through mosquito bites, and while it is less common in our region, the presence of a confirmed case warrants heightened vigilance. PCMCD is ramping up its mosquito control efforts, including targeted ground and aerial adulticide spraying and larvicide applications in the affected areas to reduce mosquito populations.

To protect yourself from mosquitoes, you should remember to “**Drain and Cover**”: Residents are urged to take the following precautions to protect themselves and their families:

**DRAIN standing water. Mosquitoes breed in stagnant water. Regularly check and empty items that can collect water.**

- Drain water from garbage cans, house gutters, buckets, pool covers, coolers, toys, flowerpots 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 per 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 socks, shoes, long pants, and long-sleeved shirts to minimize skin exposure. This type of protection may be necessary for people who must work in areas where mosquitoes are present.
- **Repellent** - Apply U.S. EPA-approved insect repellent to bare skin and clothing.
  - Always use repellents according to the label. Repellents with DEET, picaridin, and IR3535 are effective.
- **Avoid** - Stay inside around peak mosquito activity times. Mosquitoes that can spread dengue are more active during the day, so take extra precautions to avoid mosquito bites during early morning and late afternoon, as well as dusk and dawn.

### **COVER doors and windows with screens to keep mosquitoes out of your house.**

- Repair broken screening on windows, doors, porches, and patios to keep mosquitoes outside.

The PCMCD is committed to ensuring the health and safety of our community and will continue to monitor the situation closely. For additional information or to report mosquito concerns, please contact the Pasco County Mosquito Control District at 727-376-4568 or visit our website at PascoMosquito.org

We appreciate your cooperation and understanding as we work together to protect our community from mosquito-borne diseases.

### **About Pasco County Mosquito Control District**

The Pasco County Mosquito Control District is dedicated to safeguarding the public's health through effective mosquito control and prevention programs. Our mission is to protect the health and well-being of the citizens of Pasco County through the prevention and control of mosquitoes and mosquito-borne diseases. Our goal is to control both pestiferous and disease carrying mosquito populations to a tolerable level in the safest, most economical manner, while using a variety of methods in such a way as to minimize potential effects on people, wildlife, and the environment.

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