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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, February 21, 2008

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**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH / VOLUSIA COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT
PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY FOR MOSQUITO-BORNE DISEASE
(Eastern Equine Encephalitis reported in Volusia County)**

DAYTONA BEACH - The Volusia County Health Department is issuing a public health advisory for mosquito-borne illness, advising that there has been increased mosquito-borne disease activity in areas of Volusia County and, as a result, there is a potential public health threat. During the past month, three (3) horses have tested positive for Eastern Equine Encephalitis. In addition, four (4) sentinel chickens and recent collections of trapped mosquitoes have tested positive for Eastern Equine Encephalitis virus. **Although there is no known human case of this mosquito-borne illness at this time, the risk of transmission to humans has increased during the past week since the health department issued a local public health notice.**

"We continue to ask county residents and tourists to be mindful and diligent regarding their personal mosquito protection efforts at this time in Volusia County," said Paul Minshew, environmental health manager for the Volusia County Health Department. "It is important to be aware of mosquito-borne illnesses, how to prevent them, and to act accordingly." The Volusia County Health Department again reminds residents and visitors to take precautions to avoid mosquito bites. Volusia County Mosquito Control and the health department continue surveillance and prevention efforts and encourage everyone to take basic precautions to help limit exposure by following the department of health recommendations.

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, which is where mosquitoes can lay their eggs.

Elimination of breeding sites is also a key to prevention, and can be accomplished by:

- Clean out eaves, troughs and gutters.
- Remove old tires or drill holes in those used in playgrounds to drain.
- Turn over or remove empty plastic pots; pick up all beverage containers and cups.
- Check tarps on boats or other equipment that may collect water; pump out bilges on boats.
- Replace water in birdbaths and pet or other animal feeding dishes at least once a week.
- Change water in plant trays, including hanging plants, at least once a week.
- Remove vegetation or obstructions in drainage ditches that prevent the flow of water.
- Stock minnows in ponds or areas that routinely hold water on your property.

The Department of Health continues to conduct statewide surveillance for mosquito borne illnesses, including West Nile virus infections, Eastern Equine Encephalitis, St. Louis Encephalitis, malaria, and dengue. Residents of Florida are encouraged to report dead birds via the web site <http://myfwc.com/bird/>. For more information on mosquito-borne illnesses, visit DOH's Environmental Health web site at <http://www.doh.state.fl.us/environment/community/arboviral/index.html>, call the West Nile Virus Hotline at 1-888-880-5782, or Volusia County Health Department- Environmental Health at 386-274-0694.