

MOSQUITO SEASON IS HERE

Take precautions to Prevent Mosquito-borne Diseases

The Indian River Mosquito Control District (IRMCD) reminds residents and visitors that mosquitoes are prevalent in the county. IRMCD conducts routine surveillance for St. Louis encephalitis, eastern equine encephalitis and West Nile viruses. The district uses chicken flocks as sentinels to detect the presence of these viruses. At present, there are no confirmed or suspected human cases in our county. However, several chickens have recently tested positive for antibodies to West Nile virus throughout the county.

The Florida Department of Health in Indian River County and IRMCD want to emphasize the importance of residents and visitors protecting themselves against mosquito-borne diseases. Because of our climate on the Treasure Coast, there is at least some risk of exposure to mosquito-borne disease throughout the year. Symptoms of West Nile virus disease may include headache, fever, fatigue, dizziness, weakness and confusion. Physicians should contact their county health department if they suspect an individual may have a mosquito-borne disease.

To reduce mosquito bites, residents are advised to reduce outdoor activities at dusk and dawn which is when mosquitoes are most active. Wear protective clothing such as long sleeves and long pants and apply commercially available repellents according to label directions. Household screening should be repaired or replaced when damaged and any containers in the yard holding standing water should be emptied.

For more information, visit <http://www.floridahealth.gov/diseases-and-conditions/mosquito-borne-diseases/> or call Indian River County Health Department at 772-794-7440

For more information on Indian River County Mosquito Control District and our activities, including spray trucks, larval control, source reduction, tire collection, disease surveillance and research visit <http://irmosquito.com> or call 772-562-2393