



Rick Scott
Governor

H. Frank Farmer, Jr., M.D., Ph.D.
State Surgeon General

August 9, 2011

Contact:
Renay Rouse: 772-631-6008

MARTIN COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT ISSUES HEALTH ADVISORY REGARDING MOSQUITO-BORNE DISEASE

The Martin County Health Department is urging residents to take precautions against mosquito borne illness following a confirmed case of dengue fever. The illness was acquired by a resident of the Rocky Point section of Port Salerno following a recent trip to a Caribbean island. The Health Department is also awaiting test results on a possible second case of the illness in the same household.

Dengue Fever (pronounced den' gee) is a disease transmitted to humans by the bite of an infected mosquito, not person to person. In the Western Hemisphere, the *Aedes aegypti* (pronounced edis egyptie) mosquito is the main transmitter of dengue viruses. In some cases, the *Aedes albopictus* mosquito has also transmitted the disease. Both of these mosquitoes are present in Martin County, however, there have not been any locally acquired Dengue cases here within the last 30 years. It is estimated that there are over 100 million cases of dengue worldwide each year.

Though some people may experience little to no symptoms, the most common symptoms of dengue include high fever, severe headache, joint and bone pain and rash. There is no specific medication for treatment of a dengue infection, but persons who think they have dengue should contact their doctor.

An Environmental Health Specialist from the Martin County Health Department along with representatives from Martin County Mosquito Control will be visiting residents in Rocky Point this morning inspecting and treating properties as well as providing mosquito repellent and information about dengue.

All Martin County residents are asked to use preventative measures to help stop the spread of mosquito borne illness.

Helpful information:

- Empty any standing water around your home (including buckets, tires, bird baths and garbage cans) where mosquitoes can lay their eggs.
- Avoid outdoor activities when mosquitoes are most active
- Use DEET (with concentrations up to 30%) or other repellents containing picaridin, or oil of lemon eucalyptus. It is not recommended to use DEET on children less than 2-months of age. Always read manufacturer's directions carefully before applying repellent.
- More information is available at : <http://www.cdc.gov/Dengue>
- Martin County Mosquito Control Hotline : 772-288-5657

###