

Mosquito (Vector Borne)Diseases

What is a Vector-borne Disease? A vector borne disease is an illness from a virus or bacteria that you get from contact with another living organism, usually a mosquito, tick, bird or rodent. Not every insect carries a disease, but you can not distinguish which ones may carry illnesses.

How does climate change impact vector born disease? Warmer temperatures and rain patterns will change where certain disease-carrying species will live. Things found in the tropics will become more common in Florida. Without cold winter temperatures to kill off the insect populations or their eggs, they will increase in number, paving the way for higher rates of illness.

What do residents need to do? In South Florida we are particularly concerned about controlling mosquito populations that carry several diseases (listed to the right). County government monitor and spray areas that are mosquito breeding grounds, but they public cooperation to eliminate standing water on private property. Standing water is where mosquitos breed.(Picture 1)

- Drain standing water from buckets, flower pots, drums, plastic pools, clogged gutter or low areas around your property.(picture 2)
- Prevent bites by installing and fixing broken screens, wearing long sleeves, long pants, and socks when outdoors and insect repellent with DEET or oil of lemon eucalyptus.
- Be wary 1 hour before and after dawn and dusk, when mosquitoes are more active.
- Contact the Dept. of Environmental Resources Management, Mosquito Control Division about mosquito infestations.

Report to:

Dept. of Environmental Resources Management Mosquito Control Division

9011 W. Lantana Road, Lake Worth, FL 33467

Phone: 561-967-6480 Air Spray HOTLINE: 561-642-8775

Key website

<http://www.floridahealth.gov/diseases-and-conditions/mosquito-borne-diseases/>



Health Impacts

Dengue Fever
St. Louise Encephalitis
Eastern Equine Encephalitis
West Nile
Chikungunya Fever
Zika Virus

Who is at high risk?

Everyone is at risk of being bitten by mosquitos and becoming ill, but children, older adults and people that are immune compromised may be at risk of getting more seriously ill than others. Zika Virus poses a greater risk to pregnant women and the unborn fetus as it is thought to cause microcephaly in babies.

If someone develops symptoms, seek medical attention immediately!