



Miami-Dade County Health Department

**Contact:**

Olga Connor  
Rosa Oses-Prealoni

**PR-060**

(786) 336-1276

[olga\\_connor@doh.state.fl.us](mailto:olga_connor@doh.state.fl.us)

[rosa\\_oses-prealoni@doh.state.fl.us](mailto:rosa_oses-prealoni@doh.state.fl.us)

**First Suspected Locally Acquired Dengue Fever Case in Miami-Dade  
County  
Media Availability**

**(Miami, FL – July 15, 2010)** –The Miami-Dade County Health Department is reporting the first suspected locally acquired dengue infection case in the County.

**Media Availability  
Today, Thursday, July 15, 2010  
Location: 8323 NW 12 Street, Miami, Suite 212  
Time: 10:30 AM**

Dengue is one of several mosquito-borne illnesses monitored by the department. Dengue is a viral disease transmitted by a breed of mosquito common to the southeastern United States and the tropics. It is not spread from person to person. More than 100 million cases of dengue occur every year worldwide.

The clinical features of dengue fever vary according to the age of the patient. Infants and young children may have a fever with rash. Older children and adults may have either a mild fever or a more severe case of the disease with abrupt onset and high fever, severe headache, pain behind the eyes, muscle and joint pains, and rash. Anyone experiencing these symptoms should seek care from a medical provider.

There is no vaccine or antidote for dengue. The best way to safeguard you and your loved ones from getting the virus is to take preventive measures against mosquitoes. These include making sure there are no containers with standing water, eliminating mosquitoes from one's residences and using repellent to ward off bites.

The Miami-Dade County Health Department reminds residents and visitors to avoid being bitten by mosquitoes. Everyone is encouraged to take the basic steps to limit exposure by following these recommendations:

To protect yourself from mosquitoes, you should practice the “5 D’s”:

- **D**usk and **D**awn – avoid being outdoors when mosquitoes are very active
- **D**ress – wear clothing that covers most of your skin
- **D**EET – repellents containing up to 30 percent DEET (N, N-diethyl-meta-toluamide) are recommended. Other effective mosquito repellents include picaridin, oil of lemon eucalyptus, and IR 3535. Always read label directions for approved usage before you apply a repellent. Some repellents are not suitable for children.
- **D**rainage – check around your home to remove standing water, where mosquitoes may lay eggs.

Getting rid of mosquito breeding sites is one of the keys to prevention.

- Clean out eaves, troughs and gutters
- Remove old tires or drill holes to drain those used in playgrounds
- 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

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