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DOH-Escambia Issues Reminder: Mosquito-Borne Illness Alert Still in Effect

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Pensacola, Fla.—The Florida Department of Health in Escambia County (DOH-Escambia) is reminding residents that the Mosquito-Borne Illness Alert is still in effect following the confirmation of a third case of locally-acquired West Nile Virus. DOH-Escambia and Escambia County Mosquito Control are coordinating surveillance and prevention efforts by utilizing targeted mitigation activities including aerial spraying, field inspections, and biological, chemical, and physical control measures.

Many people who are infected with West Nile Virus do not get sick; however, some people may have symptoms including, but not limited to, fever, headache, rash, nausea, vomiting, altered mental status, and seizures. While most people who are infected with West Nile Virus do not have long term health effects, in some cases the infection can lead to encephalitic coma or death. Symptoms of West Nile Virus can appear anytime between 2 to 15 days after being bitten by an infected mosquito. West Nile Virus is not contagious between people, but it is transmitted by the bite of an infected *Aedes aegypti* mosquito – a species common in our area.

DOH-Escambia reminds the community to avoid being bitten by mosquitoes by taking these [basic precautions](#).

The Department continues to conduct statewide surveillance for mosquito-borne illnesses, including West Nile virus infections, Eastern equine encephalitis, St. Louis encephalitis, malaria, chikungunya, and dengue. Residents of Florida are encouraged to report dead birds to the [Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's](#) site.

For more information, visit the [Department's website](#) or view the weekly [mosquito-borne illness surveillance reports](#). If you are experiencing any symptoms, please contact your healthcare provider.

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