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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**VOLUSIA COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT REMINDS PUBLIC OF HEALTH ADVISORY
FOR MOSQUITO-BORNE DISEASE**
(EEE virus reported in Volusia County)

DAYTONA BEACH -The Volusia County Health Department is reminding residents that Volusia County is currently under a Public Health Advisory for mosquito-borne illness. Residents are urged to take precautions against mosquito bites.

Two horses recently died from Eastern equine encephalitis (EEE) virus. The total number of horse deaths from EEE in 2009 is five. The increased mosquito-borne disease activity in the area suggests there is a potential public health threat.

No human cases of Eastern equine encephalitis are reported in Volusia County or in the state at this time.

"We continue to ask county residents and tourists to be mindful and diligent regarding their personal mosquito protection efforts at this time in Volusia County," said Paul Minshew, environmental health manager for the Volusia County Health Department. "It is important to be aware of mosquito-borne illnesses, how to prevent them, and to act accordingly."

Protection from mosquitoes is especially important during the upcoming holiday weekend when many residents and visitors to the area will be enjoying outdoor activities.

Personal mosquito protection efforts should include the "5 D's" for prevention:

- **Dusk and Dawn** --Avoid being outdoors when mosquitoes are seeking blood. For many species, this is during the dusk and dawn hours.
- **Dress** --Wear clothing that covers most of your skin.
- **DEET** --When the potential exists for exposure to mosquitoes, repellents containing DEET (N, N-diethyl-meta-toluamide, or N, N-diethyl-3-methylbenzamide) are recommended. Picaridin and oil of lemon eucalyptus are other repellent options.
- **Drainage** --Check around your home to rid the area of standing water, which is where mosquitoes can lay their eggs.

The Department of Health continues to conduct statewide surveillance for mosquito borne illnesses, including West Nile virus infections, Eastern equine encephalitis, St. Louis encephalitis, malaria, and dengue.

For more information on mosquito-borne illnesses, visit DOH's Environmental Health web site at <http://www.doh.state.fl.us/environment/community/arthoviral/index.html>, call the West Nile Virus Hotline at 1-888-880-5782, or Volusia County Health Department-Environmental Health Office at 386-274-0692. The health department's website address is www.volusiahealth.com.

Mission: Promote, protect, and improve the health of all people in Florida