



Charlie Crist
Governor

Ana M. Viamonte Ros, M.D., M.P.H.
State Surgeon General

May 26, 2009

Jonas Stewart
Director
Volusia County Mosquito Control
801 South St.
New Smyrna Beach, FL 32168

Director Stewart:

This letter is provided in support of your request to the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (DACS), Division of Entomology, to provide aerial adulticiding for Volusia County. In late May, a significant rainfall event produced approximately 29 inches of rainfall and vast areas of the county remain flooded, providing ideal conditions for mosquito breeding. The resulting mosquito population explosion is anticipated to hamper state and county disaster assessment activities.

As you are aware, Volusia County has been under a Public Health Advisory for mosquito borne arboviral disease since April 2009. In the past month, we received a report of the 3rd horse case of Eastern Equine Encephalitis in Volusia County this year. In addition, chicken flocks that serve as our primary surveillance tool for predicting the virus' infiltration into urban areas, have shown an increase in positives.

There is also a concern for a dramatic increase in skin infections from persons bitten numerous times by extremely high numbers of nuisance mosquitoes that swarm our citizens even during the day.

If our Department can be of further assistance in this matter, please contact Paul Minshew, Environmental Manager at 386-274-0691. Mr. Minshew serves on the State Arbovirus Disease Taskforce and is recognized as a State surveillance expert.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Thomas R. Coleman, M.D., M.S." with a stylized flourish at the end.

Thomas R. Coleman, M.D., M.S.
Director
Volusia County Health Department

TRC/pmm