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Florida Keys Mosquito Control District Activates Comprehensive Plan to Combat Dengue Fever Cases in Monroe County

The Florida Keys Mosquito Control District (FKMCD) has activated its mosquito-borne disease RESPONSE plan and increased mosquito control operations in Key Largo and Upper Matecumbe Key, the organization announced Monday.

The Florida Department of Health in Monroe County announced earlier Saturday that two people have recently tested positive for Dengue Fever, which is spread by the female *Aedes aegypti* mosquito.

As soon as FKMCD is notified by the Health Department of a potential case of any mosquito-borne disease, the organization launches a series of enhanced control measures:

- Door-to-Door inspections and treatments of residences and businesses. Any adult and/or larval mosquitoes found are treated on the spot.
- Truck and/or aerial larvicide and adulticide treatments conducted throughout the areas of concern.
- Placement of mosquito traps in the area to monitor the *Aedes aegypti* population. Collected mosquitoes are subsequently tested for mosquito-borne diseases.

Public awareness is the front line of defense in the fight against mosquito-borne disease. Property owners can make a difference by taking a few simple steps to remove potential breeding sites:

- Eliminate any standing water by turning over and removing empty pots, buckets, trash cans, recycle bins, pet bowls and children's toys.
- Check tarps on boats or equipment and make sure gutters are clear and free of debris.
- Regularly flush fresh water into bromeliads, hanging plants, and bird baths.

In addition, homeowners can prevent bites by wearing long-sleeved shirts and pants, utilize a proven mosquito repellent with Deet, and keep mosquitoes out of their residence by making sure that doors and windows are closed and screens are free of tears or holes.

To place a service request with FKMCD, visit www.keysmosquito.org or call 305-292-7190.

About the Florida Keys Mosquito Control District

The mission of the Florida Keys Mosquito Control District is to protect the public from health threats and nuisance issues that impact the local economy by utilizing control methods that are efficient, effective and environmentally sensitive.

Follow FKMCD on Twitter at [@FlKeysMosquito](https://twitter.com/FlKeysMosquito) and on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/FlKeysMosquito). For more information about the Florida Keys Mosquito Control District, please visit www.keysmosquito.org.

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