



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

News Release

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR

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For Immediate Release: March 24, 2011

11-027

**DOH INVESTIGATES CASES OF DENGUE FEVER ON OAHU
AND ASKS PUBLIC & MEDICAL COMMUNITY TO BE VIGILANT**

HONOLULU – The Hawaii State Department of Health (DOH) is investigating two confirmed cases and two suspected cases of Oahu residents who became ill with dengue fever in late February. All four adults have recovered and are no longer ill. Based on the ongoing investigation, the four cases appear to be related and were infected near their homes by mosquitoes.

“The Department of Health immediately began precautionary measures by conducting additional testing, surveying and developing a mosquito control plan for the specific areas where these four individuals were likely infected,” said Health Director Loretta Fuddy. “We need the public’s help to clean up mosquito breeding areas throughout Oahu by emptying all standing water, and checking gutters and other areas that collect water.”

The DOH sent out a medical alert to Oahu physicians earlier this week advising them to consider potential dengue infection in persons with compatible symptoms, request appropriate laboratory testing, and report all suspected cases to the DOH.

Oahu residents and visitors are also advised to protect themselves against mosquito bites by applying repellent containing DEET (20-30%) or picaridin to skin and clothing; repairing window and door screens to keep mosquitoes from entering indoors; and wearing lighter-colored clothing that covers and protects skin from biting mosquitoes.

(more)

Dengue fever is a viral disease transmitted by the *Aedes* mosquito that occurs primarily in tropical and subtropical areas of the world. The illness is characterized by sudden onset of high fever, severe headaches, joint and muscle pain, nausea, vomiting and rash. Younger children tend to have a milder illness than older children and adults and may show no symptoms. Symptoms may last up to 10 days, but complete recovery can take two to four weeks. Treatment consists of rest, fluids, and medications to reduce fever, such as acetaminophen or ibuprofen. Aspirin should not be used to treat a dengue patient.

Those with high fever in addition to any of the symptoms for dengue fever should see their doctor for evaluation. Dengue is transmitted through mosquitoes which become infected by biting persons with fever and then pass on that infection by biting another person. It is important that infected people with fever stay indoors to ensure they are not bitten by mosquitoes and indirectly pass on the infection.

More information on Dengue Fever is available on the Department of Health Web site:

<http://hawaii.gov/health/DIB/Dengue.html>

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