



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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As Public Health Threat of Mosquito-Borne Illness Increases, Florida's World-Class Scientists & Professionals are Ready

Tallahassee, FL – For more than 20 million residents and [137 million tourists](#) each year, Florida is simply a place where life is better.

Unfortunately, we share the Sunshine State with more than 80 species of mosquitoes.

Known as the world's deadliest animal, mosquitoes also love Florida, and carry deadly diseases like malaria, West Nile virus, and dengue fever.

“Many of the same things that draw people to Florida, such as our year-round tropical weather, also bring mosquitoes,” said Richard Weaver, president of the [Florida Mosquito Control Association](#), (FMCA). “Sound science and around-the-clock surveillance has kept our residents, tourists, and businesses safe. We will continue to deploy the latest technologies and advance the science of mosquito control to maintain Florida's standing as the best place in the nation to live, work and visit.”

This week is [Florida Mosquito Control Awareness Week](#), highlighting the incredible science, training and resources dedicated to combating the world's most dangerous animal.

Mosquitoes are responsible for more human deaths than any another animal, [killing nearly a quarter of a million people globally each year](#). Mosquitoes also kill livestock and domestic animals, inflicting damage on agriculture and economies.

Last year, south Florida counties saw the largest dengue fever outbreak in more than 75 years. Similarly, malaria was locally transmitted in the state for the first time in more than 20 years.

[With experts predicting a severe hurricane season](#) this year, bringing standing water for millions of mosquitoes to breed, the work of mosquito control professionals is more critical than ever.

As an international business hub with a tropical climate that attracts invasive mosquito species from around the world, Florida has long been a leader in mosquito control. Formed more than 100 years ago, the FMCA has helped scientists and entomologists battle mosquitoes and educate the public about the multitude of dangerous diseases transmitted via a mosquito bite.

Florida's mosquito control efforts focus on scientific discovery and inquiry, front-line deployment of personnel and technology, and a strong network of professionals sharing best practices and experiences.

For the 67 mosquito control programs in the state, the battle against mosquitoes and the diseases they carry is an evolving challenge, particularly due to the issue of insecticide resistance and disease outbreaks. To address this, innovative approaches are being adopted across various regions, showcasing the importance of advancing mosquito control methods.

The Florida Keys Mosquito Control District has embarked on a [partnership with Oxitec](#), deploying genetically altered mosquitoes as a groundbreaking strategy to decrease mosquito numbers.

Similarly, both [Lee County](#) and [Anastasia](#) Mosquito Control Districts are experimenting with releasing sterilized male mosquitoes into the wild, aiming to curb population growth through failed breeding attempts.

Hernando County's program received funding to establish a lab equipped with advanced PCR technology for mosquito-borne disease testing, similar to the PCR test currently used for Covid detection. The lab has processed thousands of mosquitoes for testing.

And districts like [Collier](#) and [Manatee](#) are at the forefront of testing new methods for adult mosquito management, exploring new insecticides and best management practices. These pioneering efforts underscore a commitment to finding sustainable and effective solutions to mosquito-borne diseases, marking a significant stride towards safeguarding public health and biodiversity.

Because of efforts like these, Florida is an international leader in bringing together world-class experts and researchers to share cutting-edge mosquito control techniques.

Last month, the world's top scientific minds in the field met in St. Augustine at the 19th Arbovirus Surveillance and Mosquito Control Workshop, sharing best practices, new scientific breakthroughs, and innovative technologies in the field of mosquito control.

More than 300 attendees from five continents came to the three-day meeting. Topics included resistance to insecticides, invasive mosquitoes, outbreaks of Dengue fever, the use of artificial intelligence in mosquito surveillance, and much more.

Speakers came from around the world, including China, Colombia, India, Mali, Switzerland and Taiwan.

"It is a true honor to host these passionate, dedicated professionals in Florida," said Dr. Rui-De Xue, AMCD Executive Director. "We are committed to not only learning from each other but educating the public about the dangers of mosquitoes and the many ways to prevent them which is an essential part of mosquito control," Xue said.

For more information on the Florida Mosquito Control Association, [click here](#).

For more information about the Anastasia Mosquito Control District, [click here](#).

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Outlet Name	City	State	Location	Type	Audience
Bay News 9	St. Petersburg	FL	US	Television	950,000 Broadcast Audience
Bradenton Herald	Bradenton	FL	US	Newspaper	33,117 circulation
Bulletin Intelligence LLC	Reston	VA	US	Aggregator	N/A
Cape Coral Daily Breeze	Cape Coral	FL	US	Newspaper	41,627 circulation
Central Florida News 13 (CFN 13)	Orlando	FL	US	Television	N/A
Centro Tampa	St. Petersburg	FL	US	Newspaper	48,860 circulation
Charlotte Sun	Charlotte Harbor	FL	US	Newspaper	6,709 circulation
Cision (Feed 1)	Chicago	IL	US	Other	N/A
Cision (Feed 2)	Chicago	IL	US	Other	N/A
Citrus County Chronicle	Crystal River	FL	US	Newspaper	24,369 circulation
Cox Newspaper (Central Publishing)	Atlanta	GA	US	Publisher/Media Group	129,014 Visitors per Month
Daily Business Review	Miami	FL	US	Newspaper	11,428 circulation
Daily Commercial	Leesburg	FL	US	Newspaper	15,465 circulation
Daily Sun	The Villages	FL	US	Newspaper	57,929 circulation
Daytona Beach News-Journal	Daytona Beach	FL	US	Newspaper	66,544 circulation
Dothan Eagle	Dothan	AL	US	Newspaper	18,875 circulation
El Sentinel Ft. Lauderdale	Fort Lauderdale	FL	US	Newspaper	189,204 circulation
El Sentinel Orlando	Orlando	FL	US	Radio	182,964 circulation
Florida Radio Network	Maitland	FL	US	Radio	N/A
Florida Today	Melbourne	FL	US	Newspaper	50,634 circulation
Fort Myers News Press	Fort Myers	FL	US	Newspaper	76,276 circulation
Gainesville Sun	Gainesville	FL	US	Newspaper	24,810 circulation
Gannett Company	Portland	OR	US	Publisher/Media Group	N/A
Gatehouse Media (Central Publishing) (Feed 1)	Austin	TX	US	Publisher/Media Group	N/A
Gatehouse Media (Central Publishing) (Feed 2)	Austin	TX	US	Publisher/Media Group	N/A
Georgia Radio Network	Maitland	FL	US	Radio	N/A
Golfweek	Orlando	FL	US	Newspaper	162,987 circulation
Hernando Sun	Spring Hill	FL	US	Newspaper	N/A
InfoDesk	Tarrytown	NY	US	Organization/Company	24,624 Visitors per Month
Jackson County Floridan	Marianna	FL	US	Newspaper	3,500 circulation
Key West Citizen	Key West	FL	US	Newspaper	8,468 circulation

Outlet Name	City	State	Location	Type	Audience
Lake City Reporter	Lake city	FL	US	Newspaper	9,413 circulation
Lakeland Ledger	Lakeland	FL	US	Newspaper	391,823 circulation
LexisNexis	Miamisburg	OH	US	Aggregator	N/A
LobbyTools	Tallahassee	FL	US	Other	N/A
Mega TV	Miami	FL	US	Television	N/A
Miami Herald	Miami	FL	US	Newspaper	133,328 circulation
Morris Communications (Central Publishing)	Augusta	GA	US	Publisher/Media Group	N/A
Naples Daily News	Naples	FL	US	Newspaper	72,854 circulation
Navarre Press	Navarre	FL	US	Newspaper	7,500 circulation
News Chief	Winter Haven	FL	US	Newspaper	1,591 circulation
Northwest Florida Daily News	Fort Walton Beach	FL	US	Newspaper	25,875 circulation
Ocala StarBanner	Ocala	FL	US	Newspaper	25,964 circulation
Orlando Sentinel	Orlando	FL	US	Newspaper	182,964 circulation
Palatka Daily News	Palatka	FL	US	Newspaper	10,300 circulation
Palm Beach Post	West Palm Beach	FL	US	Newspaper	110,453 circulation
Panama City News Herald	Panama City	FL	US	Newspaper	21,581 circulation
Pensacola News Journal	Pensacola	FL	US	Newspaper	35,579 circulation
Sanford Herald	Sanford	FL	US	Newspaper	5,000 circulation
Sarasota Herald-Tribune	Sarasota	FL	US	Newspaper	77,537 circulation
Sebring News-Sun	Venice	FL	US	Newspaper	4,373 circulation
South Florida Sun Sentinel	Deerfield Beach	FL	US	Newspaper	189,204 circulation
St. Augustine Record	St. Augustine	FL	US	Newspaper	18,372 circulation
St. Lucie News-Tribune	Stewart	FL	US	Newspaper	65,227 circulation
Stuart News	Stuart	FL	US	Newspaper	65,227 circulation
Tallahassee Democrat	Tallahassee	FL	US	Newspaper	30,656 circulation
Tampa Bay Times	St. Petersburg	FL	US	Newspaper	391,215 circulation
Telemundo Network Group	Hialeah	FL	US	Television	1,032,367 Broadcast Audience
The Florida Times-Union	Jacksonville	FL	US	Newspaper	77,676 circulation
The Golf Channel	Orlando	FL	US	Television	58,289 Broadcast Audience
Thomasville Times-Enterprise	Thomasville	GA	US	Newspaper	6,500 circulation
Tribune Co. Newspaper (Central Publishing)	Chicago	IL	US	Newspaper	N/A
UniMás	Miami	FL	US	Television	1,683,949 Broadcast Audience
Univision	Miami	FL	US	Television	11,863,378 Visitors per Month
Valdosta Daily Times	Valdosta	GA	US	Newspaper	13,200 circulation
Vero Beach Press Journal	Vero Beach	FL	US	Newspaper	29,610 circulation
WANM-FM	Tallahassee	FL	US	Radio	32,000 Broadcast Audience
WARO-FM	Fort Myers	FL	US	Radio	25,300 Broadcast Audience
WAVV-FM	Naples	FL	US	Radio	155,300 Broadcast Audience
WBBH-TV	Fort Myers	FL	US	Television	71,014 Broadcast Audience
WBVM-FM	Tampa	FL	US	Radio	88,400 Broadcast Audience
WCJB-TV	Gainesville	FL	US	Television	18,182 Broadcast Audience

Outlet Name	City	State	Location	Type	Audience
WCTV-TV	Tallahassee	FL	US	Television	47,411 Broadcast Audience
WDBO-FM	Orlando	FL	US	Radio	286,200 Broadcast Audience
WEAR-TV	Pensacola	FL	US	Television	40,428 Broadcast Audience
WESH-TV	Long Island City	NY	US	Television	127,790 Broadcast Audience
WFLA-TV	Tampa	FL	US	Television	159,656 Broadcast Audience
WFLX-TV	West Palm Beach	FL	US	Television	43,576 Broadcast Audience
WFOR-TV	Miami	FL	US	Television	131,651 Broadcast Audience
WFOX-TV	Jacksonville	FL	US	Television	48,885 Broadcast Audience
WFSU-FM / The Florida Channel	Tallahassee	FL	US	Radio	73,100 Broadcast Audience
WFSX-AM	Fort Myers	FL	US	Radio	25,300 Broadcast Audience
WFTS-TV	Tampa	FL	US	Television	116,472 Broadcast Audience
WFTV-TV	Orlando	FL	US	Television	137,439 Broadcast Audience
WFTX-TV	Cape Coral	FL	US	Television	30,148 Broadcast Audience
WGCU-FM	Fort Myers	FL	US	Radio	105,200 Broadcast Audience
WGUL-AM	Tampa	FL	US	Radio	35,500 Broadcast Audience
WHBO-AM	Largo	FL	US	Radio	48,600 Broadcast Audience
WHLJ-FM	Naylor	GA	US	Radio	16,600 Broadcast Audience
WINK-AM	Fort Myers	FL	US	Radio	25,300 Broadcast Audience
WINK-FM	Fort Myers	FL	US	Radio	25,300 Broadcast Audience
WINK-TV	Fort Myers	FL	US	Television	71,579 Broadcast Audience
WIOD-AM	Miramar	FL	US	Radio	194,800 Broadcast Audience
WJAN-LP	Hialeah Gardens	FL	US	Television	7,400 Broadcast Audience
WJCT-FM	Jacksonville	FL	US	Radio	107,300 Broadcast Audience
WJHG-TV	Panama City	FL	US	Television	18,705 Broadcast Audience
WJUF-FM	Gainesville	FL	US	Radio	71,500 Broadcast Audience
WJXT-TV	Jacksonville	FL	US	Television	52,949 Broadcast Audience
WJXX-TV	Jacksonville	FL	US	Television	57,459 Broadcast Audience
WKCF-TV	Long Island City	NY	US	Television	127,790 Broadcast Audience
WKMG-TV	Orlando	FL	US	Television	152,554 Broadcast Audience
WKPX-FM	Sunrise	FL	US	Radio	N/A
WTKF-FM	Gainesville	FL	US	Radio	71,500 Broadcast Audience
WLRN-FM	Miami	FL	US	Radio	365,200 Broadcast Audience
WLTV-TV	Miami	FL	US	Television	149,747 Broadcast Audience
WLYF-FM	Miami	FL	US	Radio	1,267,200 Broadcast Audience
WMFE-FM	Orlando	FL	US	Radio	215,000 Broadcast Audience
WMNF-FM	Tampa	FL	US	Radio	94,100 Broadcast Audience
WNRP-AM	Pensacola	FL	US	Radio	8,800 Broadcast Audience
WOFL-TV	Lake Mary	FL	US	Television	81,379 Broadcast Audience
WOGK-FM	Ocala	FL	US	Radio	283,800 Broadcast Audience
WOKV-AM	Jacksonville	FL	US	Radio	232,100 Broadcast Audience
WOKV-FM	Jacksonville	FL	US	Radio	232,100 Broadcast Audience

Outlet Name	City	State	Location	Type	Audience
WONN-AM / WPCV-FM / WLKF-AM / WWRZ-FM	Lakeland	FL	US	Radio	6,600 Broadcast Audience
WOOF-AM	Dothan	AL	US	Radio	12,000 Broadcast Audience
WOOF-FM	Dothan	AL	US	Radio	12,000 Broadcast Audience
WPBF-TV	Palm Beach Gardens	FL	US	Television	74,157 Broadcast Audience
WPEC-TV	West Palm Beach	FL	US	Television	43,576 Broadcast Audience
WPLG-TV	Pembroke Park	FL	US	Television	90,638 Broadcast Audience
WPTV-TV	West Palm Beach	FL	US	Television	99,761 Broadcast Audience
WQCS-FM	Fort Pierce	FL	US	Radio	58,600 Broadcast Audience
WRDQ-TV	Orlando	FL	US	Television	137,439 Broadcast Audience
WRUF-FM	Gainesville	FL	US	Radio	71,500 Broadcast Audience
WSCV-TV	Miramar	FL	US	Television	89,305 Broadcast Audience
WSKY-FM	Gainesville	FL	US	Radio	71,500 Broadcast Audience
WSUA-AM	Miami	FL	US	Radio	145,100 Broadcast Audience
WSVN-TV	Miami	FL	US	Television	83,747 Broadcast Audience
WTLQ-FM	Fort Myers	FL	US	Radio	84,600 Broadcast Audience
WTLT-FM	Fort Myers	FL	US	Radio	25,300 Broadcast Audience
WTLV-TV	Jacksonville	FL	US	Television	57,459 Broadcast Audience
WTMO-LP	Orlando	FL	US	Television	16,097 Broadcast Audience
WTSP-TV	St. Petersburg	FL	US	Television	267,861 Broadcast Audience
WTVJ-TV	Miramar	FL	US	Television	70,906 Broadcast Audience
WTVT-TV	Tampa	FL	US	Television	133,138 Broadcast Audience
WTVY-TV	Dothan	AL	US	Television	29,649 Broadcast Audience
WTXL-TV	Sarasota	FL	US	Television	21,406 Broadcast Audience
WUFT-FM	Gainesville	FL	US	Radio	71,500 Broadcast Audience
WURN-AM	Coral Gables	FL	US	Radio	N/A
WUSF-FM	Tampa	FL	US	Radio	216,200 Broadcast Audience
WUWF-FM	Pensacola	FL	US	Radio	48,400 Broadcast Audience
WWBA-AM	Largo	FL	US	Radio	48,600 Broadcast Audience
WWFE-AM	Miami	FL	US	Radio	107,600 Broadcast Audience
WWOJ-FM	Sebring	FL	US	Radio	30,300 Broadcast Audience
WWSB-TV	Sarasota	FL	US	Television	51,670 Broadcast Audience
WXCW-TV	Fort Myers	FL	US	Television	71,579 Broadcast Audience
WZVN-TV	Fort Myers	FL	US	Television	71,014 Broadcast Audience
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