

March 8, 2006

COLLECTION PROCEDURES FOR DEAD BIRDS IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

Program Description:

The Miami Dade County Health Department (MDCHD) has been implementing a dead bird collection and surveillance reporting program since 1999. The purpose of the program is:

1. To detect and predict mosquito borne illnesses in a timely manner in the county
2. To implement the necessary public health measures to prevent the spread of mosquito borne diseases to the general population.

We provide services under this program 24 hours a day, seven day a week (24/7). We do not recommend that the public collect dead birds. Trevor Coke is in charge of this program. He can be reached at 305-623-3574 during the regular office operation hours of 8 to 5 or by cell at other times at 305-324-2400.

Procedure:

1. Environmental health staff receives reports of dead birds from the community. Here are the telephone numbers the public should use to report dead birds: During normal working hours (Monday to Friday between 8:00 am to 5:00 pm) # 305-623-3574 or 305-623-3500. During Holidays, weekends, and outside normal working hours 305-324-2400 or 1-800-222-1222 (FL Poison Info Center).
1. Environmental health staff enter the information onto a database on the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission website. The Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission is the agency in Florida responsible for investigations of dead wild bird clusters. They want dead birds reported to their website: www.MyFWC.com/bird. Information concerning dead bird clusters is evaluated for a range of diseases that cause wild bird mortality. This includes Avian Influenza (AI).
2. After the report has been received, a request card to pick up the dead bird is generated and is assigned to a member of our field staff .
3. If the dead bird is in good condition (i.e., is still in a fresh state with minimal decay), field staff collects the dead bird for testing.
4. The staff member transports the dead bird in a cooler, on ice, to the FDOH/Miami Laboratory for shipment to the FDOH/Tampa Laboratory for virus analysis and isolation.
5. If the dead bird is not appropriate for testing, the field staff will collect it anyway and make arrangements to have it disposed of properly.

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