



**Antelope Valley Mosquito
& Vector Control District**
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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Antelope Valley Mosquito District Reminds Residents to Take Proper Mosquito Control Measures

Lancaster, CA –The weather in the Antelope Valley is warming up and mosquito season has kicked back into full gear. The tenfold growth in the detections of invasive *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes during the 2021 mosquito season has prompted the District to remind the community about the importance of taking proper personal mosquito control measures.

Aedes aegypti are an invasive mosquito species that are well known in tropical regions, but are now becoming established in the Antelope Valley as well as throughout California. They have the potential to carry very different diseases than our native *Culex* mosquitoes and are known transmitters of diseases like Yellow Fever, Dengue Fever, Chikungunya, and Zika virus.

Mosquitoes are much more than a nuisance, they are a real public health threat. The District urges the community to report any daytime biting mosquitoes to the District at 661.942.2917 or www.avmosquito.org/submit-a-tip. Keeping mosquito populations low remains of utmost importance due to the potential for diseases to

make their way into the *Aedes* mosquito population by the mosquitoes biting infected travelers. The lower the mosquito population, the lower the likelihood for disease transmission.

West Nile virus is endemic to the Antelope Valley and is currently established in the local *Culex* mosquito population. West Nile virus is the most prevalent and serious mosquito-borne disease in California. There is no human vaccine for West Nile virus, a disease which can cause debilitating cases of meningitis, encephalitis, and even death.

AVMVCD personnel are continuing mosquito surveillance and control efforts and will proceed to keep residents informed regarding important mosquito control updates. The public plays a critical role in helping to control the spread of mosquitoes and all residents are advised to do their part to eliminate them.

All possible sources of standing water where mosquitoes lay eggs such as buckets, tires, toys, plant saucers and so on, should be emptied of standing water. Scrubbing the insides of the containers is also recommended, as this will dislodge eggs that are stuck to the container. The District also urges residents to do their part to protect themselves from mosquito bites by following these recommendations:

- Wear insect repellent that contains one of these main ingredients: DEET, picaridin, oil of lemon eucalyptus, or IR3535 to exposed skin (as directed on the product label).
- Wear long sleeve shirts, long pants, socks and shoes when mosquitoes are active, weather permitting.
- Be sure window and door screens are in good repair to prevent mosquitoes from entering your home.
- Inspect yards for standing water sources and drain water that may have collected under potted plants, in bird baths, discarded tires, and any other items that could collect water.
- Check your rain gutters and lawn drains to make sure they aren't holding water and debris.
- Clean and scrub bird baths and pet watering dishes weekly.
- Change indoor plant water (i.e. Bamboo and Philodendron) as necessary to avoid mosquito breeding.

If you notice and abundance of day biting mosquitoes, report them to the District by calling (661) 942-2917 or scanning here to report online:



To stay up-to-date on any mosquito related information, check out our website at www.avmosquito.org.

For any further questions or services please feel free to contact the Antelope Valley Mosquito & Vector Control District by phone (661-942-2917). Follow us on social media:

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