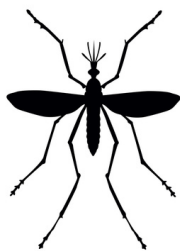


THE VALLEY BUZZ

AUGUST 2026



ANTELOPE VALLEY MOSQUITO AND VECTOR CONTROL DISTRICT



August Update

BY BRENN A BATES-GRUBB
COMMUNITY OUTREACH SPECIALIST

Hello Antelope Valley!

So far this season, surveillance efforts have shown expected levels of mosquito activity around town for this time of year. We have continued to detect West Nile virus (WNV) positive mosquito samples throughout the Antelope Valley. The uptick in WNV detections this mosquito season seems to be a statewide trend as mosquito Districts throughout California report similar surveillance findings. For updated West Nile virus detections in the District, please visit our website at: <https://www.avmosquito.org/west-nile-virus-updates>

Invasive *Aedes* mosquitoes continue to be a nuisance throughout the community. Unlike the native *Culex* mosquito, *Aedes* mosquitoes do not carry or transmit West Nile virus, but these mosquitoes are still a major nuisance in the community, bite aggressively and cause itchy, irritated bites. Residents should stay vigilant in preventing their spread. These mosquitoes prefer tiny, unsuspecting sources of stagnant water. Scan the QR code at the bottom of this page to learn more about *Aedes* mosquitoes.

AVMVCD personnel will continue to conduct intensive searches of the area surrounding these WNV detections as well as throughout the entire District to keep mosquito populations lowered and reduce the chances of residents getting ill. This includes following up with residents who have been identified as having unmaintained swimming pools. Please report any unmaintained swimming pools to the District as unmaintained swimming pools remain one of the main breeding sources of West Nile virus mosquitoes.

Personal mosquito control measures include:

- Check property for any amount of standing water and get rid of it
- When mosquitoes are active, use EPA registered insect repellents that contain one of these main ingredients: DEET, Picaridin, Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus, IR3535 according to label instructions
- If weather permits, wear clothes that cover as much skin as possible; this reduces the areas of skin in which mosquitoes can access you for a bite
- Make sure your screens on windows and doors are in good repair to avoid mosquitoes inside the home
- Check around faucets, yard drains and air conditioner units. Repair leaks or puddles that remain for several days

Scan here for more information on
invasive *Aedes* mosquitoes



DID YOU KNOW?!

Ever wonder how a mosquito seems to find you so easily—even when you can't see or hear it?

Mosquitoes have an incredible ability to detect the tiny chemical clues we leave behind. One of their most important clues is carbon dioxide (CO₂), the gas we release every time we breathe. A mosquito can detect changes in CO₂ from surprisingly far away, helping it determine that a potential host is nearby.

But CO₂ is only the beginning. As a mosquito gets closer, it switches to other signals, including body heat, moisture, movement, and chemicals released from our skin. These clues work together like a biological tracking system, guiding the mosquito toward a blood meal. Interestingly, not everyone is equally attractive to mosquitoes. Differences in body chemistry, skin microbes, heat, and the amount of CO₂ we produce can influence how attractive we are to certain mosquito species.





TECHNICIAN'S TIPS



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Mosquitoes need water to complete their life cycle, and even small amounts of standing water can produce new mosquitoes.



West Nile Virus Activity Increasing Across California: Protect Yourself and Your Community

West Nile virus (WNV) activity continues to increase across California, with mosquitoes carrying the virus being detected in communities throughout the state. The best defense against West Nile virus is to prevent mosquito bites and eliminate places where mosquitoes can breed.

One of the most effective ways to reduce mosquitoes around your home is to eliminate stagnant water. Mosquitoes need water to complete their life cycle, and even small amounts of standing water can produce new mosquitoes. Check your property regularly and empty or remove water from flowerpot saucers, buckets, toys, pet dishes, birdbaths, clogged gutters, tires, tarps, and other containers. Swimming pools should be properly maintained, circulating, and chlorinated. If a pool is not being used, do not allow it to become stagnant and green.

Residents should also protect themselves from mosquito bites by using an EPA-registered insect repellent. Effective repellents contain active ingredients such as DEET, picaridin, IR3535, oil of lemon eucalyptus (OLE), para-menthane-diol (PMD). Look for an EPA registration number on the product label.

When applying repellent, always follow the product label. Apply it to exposed skin and clothing as directed, and do not spray repellent underneath clothing. If you are also using sunscreen, apply sunscreen first and repellent afterward. Reapply repellent according to the label, especially when protection has worn off. For children, adults should apply repellent to their own hands first before applying it to the child's face, avoiding the eyes, mouth, hands, cuts, and irritated skin. Products containing OLE or PMD should not be used on children under 3 years old.

Additional protection includes wearing long sleeves and pants and limiting outdoor activity around dusk and dawn, when mosquitoes that spread WNV are most active. Protect yourself. Protect your neighbors. Dump the water, use repellent, and don't give mosquitoes a place to breed.

Contact us!

M–Th 8:00 A.M. TO 4:00 P.M.

Fri 8:00 A.M. TO 2:00 P.M.

661.942.2917

www.avmosquito.org

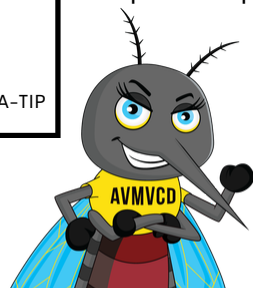
REPORT A DIRTY POOL!

E-mail: info@avmosquito.org

Phone: 661.942.2917

Web: WWW.AVMOSQUITO.ORG/SUBMIT-A-TIP

Scan here to learn more about how you can get
more information on insect repellent



Happiness and Health,
The Antelope Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District