



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

For Immediate Release

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Invasive Aedes Mosquitoes Identified in Two More New Locations in Palmdale, CA

Lancaster, CA – The Antelope Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District has identified invasive Aedes mosquitoes in two new locations in Palmdale, California. One site near 35th Street East and Avenue Q-4 and one site near 37th Street East and Avenue Q. The District has not detected this invasive mosquito in these specific locations prior to this identification. District entomologist, Karen Mellor, identified these samples as Aedes aegypti, also known as the Yellow Fever mosquito. This type of mosquito was first discovered in the Antelope Valley in October of 2018. The District has since detected it several more times during previous seasons, but these are the first two detections of the 2021 year.

Aedes aegypti is a small black and white mosquito that is closely associated with human dwellings. Unlike our native Culex mosquitoes that generally bite during dusk and dawn, Aedes mosquitoes will actively pursue people, throughout the entire day and into the evening.

Invasive Aedes mosquitoes feed almost exclusively on humans, and tend to bite below the knees. Female mosquitoes will lay eggs in small containers, such as vases, buckets, pots and plant saucers just above the water line. The eggs can dry up and survive for six or more months, waiting for the container to re-flood so they can hatch. Aedes mosquitoes are typically introduced into new areas by bringing in containers from other areas that contain the eggs. Prior to use, be sure to scrub out any newly obtained containers (pots, plant saucers, vases, bird baths etc...) to dislodge any eggs that might be inside.

Aedes aegypti 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. “Although these mosquitoes have the potential to carry these diseases, there is currently nothing to indicate that local transmission is occurring,” said District Entomologist, Karen Mellor. District Manager Leann Verdick drives home the importance of keeping mosquito populations low. Verdick states that “Getting rid of these invasive mosquitoes remains of utmost importance due to the potential for these diseases to make their way into the mosquito population through international travelers who may unknowingly bring back a tropical disease.”

AVMVCD personnel have increased mosquito surveillance in these areas and will continue to place traps that are designed to attract egg-laying Aedes mosquitoes. Once trapped, the mosquitoes are contaminated with larvicide. When they leave the trap, they spread larvicide to several breeding sites around the trap which targets larvae in small and hard to find breeding sources. The adult mosquito also gets infected with a mosquito-specific fungus that kills her before she can spread disease. In addition to increased surveillance efforts, residents in the surrounding area will be informed about the proximity of this invasive mosquito and will be advised to do their part to eliminate this mosquito.

The public plays a critical role in helping to control the spread of this mosquito population. You can stay mosquito-free by eliminating mosquito breeding sources around your home! Walk your entire property looking for any container (both natural and man-made) that will hold a teaspoon of water or more. Separate containers into three categories and take action:

1. Those that can be thrown away
2. Those that can be scrubbed down and stored in a dry place
3. Permanent fixtures that will remain in the yard and require regular inspection

Inspect your property weekly and immediately after it rains to dump, drain or flush out containers and permanent fixtures that are holding water. Scrubbing the insides of the containers is also recommended, as this can dislodge eggs deposited above the water line.

The District also urges residents to do their part to protect themselves from mosquito bites by following these recommendations:

- Wear repellents containing EPA registered ingredients such as DEET, picaridin, oil of lemon eucalyptus, or IR3535 to exposed skin and/or clothing (as directed on the product label).
- Wear long sleeve shirts, long pants, socks and shoes when mosquitoes are most active.
- 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.
- Check indoor plants that are kept in standing water for mosquito activity (i.e. Bamboo and Philodendron)

Report any day-time biting mosquitoes to the AVMVCD at 661-942-2917 or online at www.avmosquito.org/submit-a-tip

To stay up-to-date on any mosquito related information visit our website at www.avmosquito.org, Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/avmosquito>), and follow us on Twitter and Instagram @AVMosquito.

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

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