



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

For Immediate Release

June 26th, 2019

Contact:

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Over 1,700 Unmaintained Swimming Pools in Antelope Valley Identified as Potential Breeding Source for Mosquitoes

Lancaster, CA – After performing aerial surveillance of the Antelope Valley area, The Antelope Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District has identified over 1,700 unmaintained swimming pools. This is more than double the amount of unmaintained pools that were identified during the District's previous seasonal aerial surveillance.

While the District realizes that this increase may stem from well-intentioned attempts at water conservation, we would like the community to be aware that leaving a pool unattended will create conditions that produce mosquitoes. In one month, one average sized unmaintained swimming pool could produce over 3 million adult mosquitoes, which is enough to significantly impair a community's health.

Residents who have swimming pools are responsible by law for ensuring their pool is functioning properly. We are asking for the public's cooperation in keeping swimming pools well-maintained, clean or completely dry so that we do not have

to issue abatement notices. It is vital for property owners to remove all sources of mosquitoes so the health of neighborhoods is protected.

West Nile virus is transmitted by mosquitoes and continuously threatens public health throughout California. In 2018, fifteen counties across California experienced West Nile virus activity in some form. The unusually rainy winter followed by warm weather tends to lead to an increase in mosquito activity in well-populated areas. Since there is currently no vaccine or cure for the disease, preventive measures are the most effective way to reduce infections from West Nile virus.

The health of the community is the District's priority and our goal as a District is to educate the community on the public health dangers that can be avoided with a well maintained swimming pool. AVMVCD personnel is continuing mosquito surveillance throughout the Antelope Valley and will continue these efforts as mosquito season progresses.

The public plays a critical role in helping to control the spread of mosquito populations. All possible sources of standing water where mosquitoes lay eggs such as buckets, tires, and plant saucers should be emptied of standing water. The District also urges residents to do their part to protect themselves from mosquito bites by following these recommendations:

- Wear 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 green/unmaintained pools to the AVMVCD at 661-942-2917

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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