

THE VALLEY BUZZ

MAY 2026



ANTELOPE VALLEY MOSQUITO AND VECTOR CONTROL DISTRICT



@avmosquito

May Update

SCAN ME!



BY BRENNA BATES-GRUBB
COMMUNITY OUTREACH SPECIALIST

Hello Antelope Valley!

Mosquito season is now in full swing. Our surveillance efforts have shown mosquito activity around town and our technicians are out running their regular treatment routes. This past Friday, our Surveillance Technician was informed about the presence of West Nile virus (WNV) in a sample of mosquitoes that he sent out for disease testing. The WNV was detected near Avenue K and 25th Street East. Unmaintained swimming pools remain a very important priority for our technicians to attend to, as they are one of the main breeding sources of the West Nile virus mosquito. Please report any unmaintained swimming pools to the District so we can address them accordingly. The weather has warmed in the past few weeks, and we will continue to see an increase in the presence of mosquitoes, which makes it of utmost importance that residents ensure that their yards and properties are properly maintained and not contributing to a mosquito nuisance or disease threat in the community.

Personal mosquito control measures include:

- Eliminating sources of standing water around your property weekly
- Disposing of any unused items that can hold standing water
- Keeping windows and doors shut or properly screened to prevent mosquitoes in the home
- Refreshing pet water, bird baths and other permanent fixtures at least weekly
- Keeping pools, fountains, ponds and other water features fully maintained or completely dry throughout the warm season



The invasive *Aedes* mosquito continues to make waves in the community, as it is a very aggressive biter. Residents really notice its presence because *Aedes* mosquitoes specifically target humans for a blood meal over any other type of animal. Bites tend to be numerous and often occur below the knee. This is why *Aedes* mosquitoes have been coined "ankle biters". *Aedes* mosquitoes tend to breed in small, backyard sources of standing water that our technicians don't have regular access to. If it can hold water for more than 5 days, it will likely become a source of mosquitoes. If you're receiving daytime bites, please report it to us. Your input helps us target mosquito hotspots more effectively and keeps our neighborhoods healthier and more comfortable. Together, we can reduce mosquito breeding and protect the health and comfort of our community.

Scan here for more ways to prevent mosquitoes around your home:



DID YOU KNOW?!

There are a lot of myths around what works to prevent mosquito bites. Some sources say eating certain vitamins or foods works to repel mosquitoes. Some sources say that Essential Oils work against bites. The reality is that investing in a good repellent with an EPA-approved active ingredient is the tried and true way to prevent mosquito bites. When looking for a good repellent, ensuring an effective active ingredient with at least a 20% concentration is more important than the brand. The active ingredients to look for that are proven for safety and efficacy are:

- DEET
- Picaridin
- Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus
- IR3535

The active ingredient and percentage will be listed on the bottle. Always be sure to follow label instructions carefully.





TECHNICIAN'S TIPS



Mosquitoes struggle in cold temperatures because their bodies and metabolism depend on external heat.



WHY DO MOSQUITOES EMERGE WHEN IT'S WARM?

Mosquitoes are cold-blooded insects, so their activity depends heavily on the environmental temperature. Mosquitoes struggle in cold temperatures because their bodies and metabolism depend on external heat. Many species become active around 50°F, but they thrive in the 70–90°F range. In colder months, different mosquito species survive in different ways:

- some die off and leave eggs behind
- some hibernate as adults in sheltered places
- and others overwinter as larvae in water.

Mosquitoes are much more active in warm months because heat and moisture speed up nearly every part of their life cycle. That's why mosquito populations usually surge from late spring through early fall in places with seasonally warm climates like the Antelope Valley.

SO WHAT CHANGES FOR MOSQUITOES AS THE WEATHER WARMS?

- **Faster breeding:** Mosquito eggs hatch more quickly in warm water, and larvae develop into adults much faster.
- **More standing water:** Spring and summer rains leave puddles, clogged gutters, birdbaths, and other water sources where mosquitoes lay eggs.
- **Higher survival rates:** Cold weather slows or kills many mosquitoes, while warm temperatures help them feed, reproduce, and fly more easily.
- **More hosts outside:** Humans and animals spend more time outdoors in warm weather, giving mosquitoes more chances to feed.
- **Virus replication increases:** In some species, warm temperatures also help viruses like West Nile virus multiply faster inside the mosquito, increasing transmission risk.

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

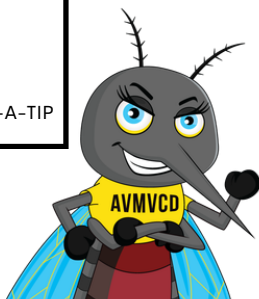
www.avmosquito.org

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 rid of *Aedes* mosquitoes around your home!



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