



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

For Immediate Release

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Invasive Aedes Mosquito Spreads Through East Palmdale

Lancaster, CA – *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes are an invasive mosquito species that are well known in tropical regions, but are now well 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. This type of mosquito was first discovered in the Antelope Valley in October of 2018, and has been detected every mosquito season since.

During the current mosquito season, the District has noticed a major uptick in *Aedes* mosquitoes, especially in the area of East Palmdale from 30th to 40th East between Avenues Q and R. If you live in or near this area, the District urges you to report any daytime biting mosquitoes and to take personal mosquito control measures that are outlined at the bottom of this press release.

Aedes aegypti mosquitoes are small black and white mosquitoes that closely associate with human dwellings. Unlike our native *Culex* mosquitoes that generally bite during dusk and dawn and tend to be less aggressive, *Aedes* mosquitoes will

actively pursue people, almost exclusively, throughout the entire day and into the evening. Female mosquitoes will lay eggs in small containers, 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.

“Although these mosquitoes have the potential to carry dangerous tropical diseases, there is currently no local transmission occurring,” said District Manager Leann Verdick “but keeping mosquito populations low remains of utmost importance due to the potential for these diseases to make their way into the mosquito population. The lower the mosquito population, the lower the likelihood for disease transmission.”

AVMVCD personnel are continuing increased mosquito surveillance in this area and will continue to place traps and keep residents informed regarding important mosquito control updates. The public plays a critical role in helping to control the spread of this mosquito population and all residents are advised to do their part to eliminate this mosquito.

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 an 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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