

# THE VALLEY BUZZ

OCTOBER 2020



ANTELOPE VALLEY MOSQUITO AND  
VECTOR CONTROL DISTRICT



@avmosquito

## October Update



BY BRENNA BATES-GRUBB

Hello Antelope Valley!

Throughout the COVID-19 situation, mosquito control is still here for you! Our office is operating and our technicians are out in the field fulfilling our mission of mosquito control for the betterment of public health. Our office is still closed to foot traffic for now, but is operating Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. for phone calls or email correspondence.

We had another busy month in September!

- 1.) We detected West Nile virus (WNV) positive mosquito samples in several different areas across the Antelope Valley. There have been a total of eleven WNV detections within District boundaries so far this 2020 season; some detections were near defunct pools.
- 2.) We identified invasive Aedes mosquitoes in two new locations: 30th Street East and Avenue R and 35th Street East and Avenue R for a total of 5 new detections for the 2020 season so far.
- 3.) Public Health has alerted us about 6 human cases of West Nile virus in the Antelope Valley area and we have detected one WNV positive dead bird in town also.
- 4.) We launched our new website this month so go check it out! [www.avmosquito.org](http://www.avmosquito.org). Also be sure to follow us in Instagram, Facebook and Twitter @AVmosquito. We update those sites regularly with mosquito-control tips and up-to-date disease detections. The District will continue to inform the community about any additional positive results and invasive Aedes mosquito detections as they occur.

For more information on Aedes mosquitoes or current West Nile virus detection information, view our current Press Releases at [www.avmosquito.org](http://www.avmosquito.org). [Westnile.ca.gov](http://Westnile.ca.gov) is also a great resource for West Nile virus information.

### DID YOU KNOW?!

.....We notice mosquitoes in the warmer months because mosquitoes need warmer weather to thrive and survive! Mosquitoes are cold-blooded, or ectothermic. Unlike us, their body temperature closely matches the temperature of the environment (air or water) around them. If it is cold outside, they are cold. If it is warm outside, they are warm. They prefer temperatures around 80 degrees Fahrenheit (and do thrive in much hotter temperatures) but any temperature over 50 degrees Fahrenheit can mean mosquitoes!





# TECHNICIAN'S TIPS



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*With the recent additional detections of West Nile virus and Aedes aegypti mosquitoes in the Antelope Valley, we would like to remind the community to be proactive in taking personal mosquito control efforts and to wear mosquito repellent if you are heading outside to enjoy the cooler weather!*

## Contact us!

M-F 8:00 A.M. TO 3:30 P.M.  
661.942.2917  
[www.avmosquito.org](http://www.avmosquito.org)

It's Fall ya'll! BUT that doesn't mean we are rid of mosquitoes just yet! Mosquito-season is still in full swing here in the Antelope Valley. We often don't start to see a decline in the mosquito population until the very end of October or the beginning of November, depending on the weather. Even so, we still do find mosquito-breeding year-round. With the recent additional detections of West Nile virus and *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes in the Antelope Valley, we would like to remind the community to be proactive in taking personal mosquito control efforts and to wear mosquito repellent if you are heading outside to enjoy the cooler weather!

The District recommends using a repellent that contains one of these Active ingredients: DEET, Picaridin, Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus or IR3535. The Active ingredient will be listed on the front of the bottle. The higher the percentage that is listed, the longer the coverage will last.

Next, we would like to explain a bit about the Invasive *Aedes* mosquitoes since we have detected them in two brand new areas of town just recently. Invasive *Aedes* mosquitoes are small black and white mosquitoes that have telltale black and white stripes on their legs. *Aedes* mosquitoes don't belong in our natural Southern California environment, hence the term 'invasive'.

*Aedes* mosquitoes are what we call 'container breeders'. They seek out very small sources of standing water, typically in unsuspecting containers. They also lay their eggs one at a time in many places (rather than in a single egg 'raft' like the *Culex* mosquito). This means that *Aedes* sources can be numerous, tiny and tricky to find. Think: Saucers under flower pots, children's toys, old tires and even trash.

They are typically introduced into a new environment through trade and travel. Here in the Antelope Valley, we have been able to pinpoint some of the very first known sources to yard items: a bucket full of landscaping rocks and an out-of-commission hot tub. The items were both brought in from areas out of town that happen to have known *Aedes* mosquito infestations. Once water was introduced to the items, the *Aedes* eggs hatched and a mosquito nuisance was created.

*Aedes* eggs are tricky like that! They are desiccation resistant, meaning they survive dry on the containers for long periods of time. This is unlike the eggs of our native *Culex* mosquitoes that are susceptible to drying out and are no longer viable once there is no water source.

**The Takeaways:** 1.) It is important to always wash down and scrub out any new containers or yard items you acquire prior to using them. This will dislodge any mosquito eggs that might be in the containers and prevent you from creating a mosquito problem in your yard. 2.) Keep standing water from accumulating in your yard by getting rid of any unused containers that can hold water 3.) Always continue to drain any remaining items around your property that can hold standing water at least weekly

### Culex Egg Rafts



### Aedes Eggs



### Aedes Mosquito



### Report a mosquito nuisance/dirty Pool:

Leann@avmosquito.org  
[avmosquito.org/contact-us.html](http://avmosquito.org/contact-us.html)