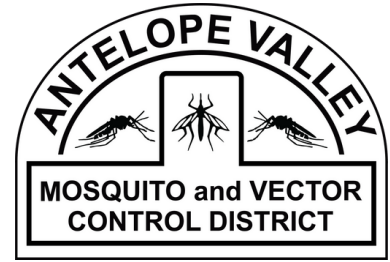


# THE VALLEY BUZZ

SEPTEMBER 2022



ANTELOPE VALLEY MOSQUITO AND VECTOR CONTROL DISTRICT



## September Update



SCAN ME!



BY BRENN A BATES-GRUBB

Hello Antelope Valley!

Wow! September already?! Mentally it feels like fall is creeping in (hello pumpkin everything) but weather-wise we're not quite there yet. Temperatures are still well over 100 degrees and this means that the mosquito lifecycle moves very quickly. In such hot weather, mosquitoes can go from egg to adult in as little as 3 to 5 days, so it is imperative to stay on top of personal mosquito control measures.

This time of the season is when the District also typically sees an uptick in overall West Nile virus (WNV) activity and human cases. At this point, WNV has had all season to take hold in the mosquito population so it is typical to see a rise in WNV occurrences. Public Health has identified two human cases of WNV in the Antelope Valley, as well as numerous other WNV detections throughout the state in mosquito samples, dead birds, sentinel chickens, horses and humans. Statewide, thus far, there have been 35 human cases of WNV reported for the 2022 mosquito season.

Now more than ever, wearing mosquito repellent when mosquitoes are present is crucial in lowering the chances of acquiring WNV. Residents can also help keep track of West Nile virus by reporting dead birds to [westnile.ca.gov](http://westnile.ca.gov)

DID YOU KNOW?!

The District can set mosquito traps in your yard! This will tell us (and you) the type of mosquitoes in your area and give us an idea about abundance for our surveillance needs. If we detect Invasive Aedes mosquitoes in the trap, we can leave a special type of trap with a pesticide in it so that when mosquitoes are exposed to the trap, they spread the pesticide around and will knock down the mosquito population.





# TECHNICIAN'S TIPS



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Mosquitoes rely on water. They need it for every life-cycle stage for different reasons. In the egg, larval and pupal stages, they live and eat in the water. And then as flying adults, they once again return to water to lay their eggs.



As a District, we are constantly putting an emphasis on eliminating standing water. The follow-up question is probably: "Why eliminate standing water?". Eliminating standing water is imperative because mosquitoes rely on water.

They need it for every life-cycle stage for different reasons. In the egg, larval and pupal stages, they live and eat in the water. And then as flying adults, they once again return to water to lay their eggs. The catch is that mosquitoes do not breathe in the water. They have to return to the surface of the water to breathe oxygen out of a siphon tube on the end of their abdomen. This is the very reason why mosquito control professionals place an emphasis on eliminating sources of *standing* or *stagnant* water.

When the water is still (aka standing or stagnant), the mosquitoes are able to return to the surface of the water to breathe. Sources of moving water such as flowing fountains, waterfall features, ponds or pools with filters or pumps that continuously circulate the water are virtually impossible for mosquitoes to thrive in because they will be unable to return to the surface of the water to breathe. So, be sure to eliminate those sources of standing water and keep your yard water features flowing and in good repair! Another alternative to maintaining a fountain is to fill it in with dirt or make it a raised garden. This will maintain curb appeal, and eliminate the need for fountain maintenance while still avoiding creating a mosquito breeding source.

### Contact us!

M-Th 8:00 A.M. TO 4:00 P.M.

Fri 8:00 A.M. TO 2:30 P.M.

661.942.2917

[www.avmosquito.org](http://www.avmosquito.org)

### Report a mosquito nuisance/dirty Pool:

[info@avmosquito.org](mailto:info@avmosquito.org)

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

661.942.2917



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