

# THE VALLEY BUZZ

JUNE 2020



ANTELOPE VALLEY MOSQUITO AND VECTOR CONTROL DISTRICT



@avmosquito

## June Update



BY BRENNA BATES-GRUBB

Hello Antelope Valley!

Despite the challenges we face with the ever-changing Covid-19 situation, our office is operating and our technicians are out in the field fulfilling our mission of mosquito control. Some aspects of our operations such as private property inspections and community outreach events and presentations are still temporarily halted to reduce the risk of Covid-19 exposure for our staff members and the community. Our office is still closed to foot traffic for now, but is open Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. for phone calls or email correspondence.

While we are on the subject of Covid-19, we thought it pertinent to share with the community that so far, there has still been no evidence that Covid-19 can be transmitted by mosquitoes. Over time, mosquito-borne illnesses have evolved to not only survive inside the mosquitoes through the digestion process, but also travel to the salivary glands, which is how the disease transmission happens when a mosquito bites. But so far Covid-19 has not evolved in that way.

We are happy to report that although we have had some fairly high trap counts in a few areas of town, no mosquitoes have tested positive for West Nile Virus or any other mosquito-borne illnesses yet this season. The high trap counts are a big reminder for the community to do their part in mosquito control by eliminating any potential breeding sources on their property. Places where we commonly find breeding this time of year are: unkempt swimming pools, in saucers under pots that have been overwatered, kiddie pools where the water isn't routinely changed, yard water features that sit stagnant instead of flowing, in the puddles that pool under dripping swamp coolers, and other miscellaneous yard items that can hold water such as: buckets, pet bowls, kids sand toys, wheel barrows, discarded tires, ice chests and even tarps and trash. Eliminating or properly storing these items will help protect you and your neighborhood from mosquito-borne illness.

### DID YOU KNOW?!

Mosquitoes like to develop in dirty standing water. Ensuring that faucets and hoses aren't leaky will prevent areas where the water puddles. Proper yard irrigation to prevent water from pooling is another way to prevent creating a mosquito habitat!





# TECHNICIAN'S TIPS

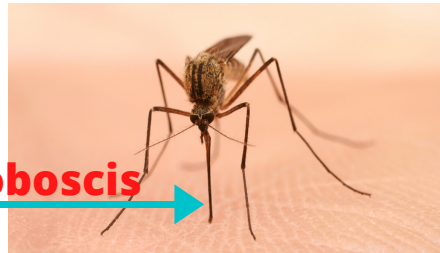


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*The less exposed skin, the less likely you are to get a pesky mosquito bite!*

Summer is for picnics and barbeques and....mosquito bites? No way! Don't let mosquitoes ruin your summer fun! Did you know that mosquitoes bite with a long needle-like mouthpiece called a proboscis? Wearing loose fitting long sleeves and pants whenever mosquitoes are present will help prevent mosquitoes from getting to your skin and taking a tasty snack. The proboscis can poke through tight fitting clothes to get to your skin, so loose fitting is best! Remember, the less exposed skin, the less likely you are to get a pesky mosquito bite.

**Proboscis** →



If the weather does not permit long sleeves and pants, wearing an EPA registered repellent will keep you and your loved ones safe this summer. However, not all mosquito repellents are created equal! The main ingredients that are EPA-registered and proven for efficacy are: DEET, Picaridin, Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus (OLE), and IR3535 so be sure to look for those when selecting a repellent.

Every EPA approved insect repellent will also list the percentage of the main ingredient on the bottle. The higher the percentage, the longer the coverage will last. For example, if a product lists 10% of the main ingredient, it might offer up to two hours of protection, whereas 90% of the main ingredient can offer up to ten hours of protection. We recommend wearing repellents that contain at least 20% of the main ingredient. Always be sure to follow label directions closely.

**Contact us!**  
M-F 8:00 A.M. TO 2:30 P.M.  
661.942.2917  
[www.avmosquito.org](http://www.avmosquito.org)



**Pro Tip:  
Mosquito  
Edition**

The percentage of the main ingredient in an insect repellent tells you how long the repellent will last!

**Report a mosquito nuisance/dirty Pool:**

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

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