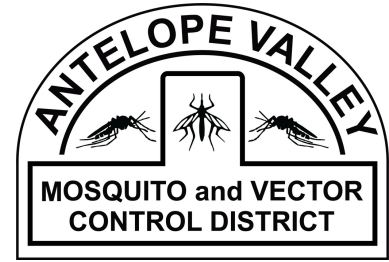


# THE VALLEY BUZZ

MAY 2021



## ANTELOPE VALLEY MOSQUITO AND VECTOR CONTROL DISTRICT



## May Update



Scan me!



BY BRENNA BATES-GRUBB

Hello Antelope Valley!

Throughout the COVID-19 situation, we have continued to serve the community. Mosquito control is an important facet of Public Health and doesn't stop even when there is a different Public Health crisis occurring. The District 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 currently closed to foot traffic, but is operating Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. for phone calls or email correspondence.

Mosquito season is back in full-swing. The weather is warming up, and our traps are buzzing with mosquitoes as they become more prevalent. This means that now, and throughout the remainder of the warm season it is important to remain vigilant in keeping the mosquito population in our community low.

.....And just how can you contribute to reducing the mosquito population? Well, let us tell you. You can do your part to reduce mosquito populations in the community and stay bite-free by following the 4 D's of mosquito control:

1. Dusk/Dawn: Avoid outdoor activity when mosquitoes are most actively feeding and flying
2. DEET: Use personal repellents containing this (or another) EPA approved ingredient
3. Dress: Cover exposed skin to block mosquitoes' access to your body
4. Drain: Dump or drain any standing water around your property weekly

Don't forget that at the end of 2020, we launched our updated website [www.avmosquito.org](http://www.avmosquito.org). Check it out. A plethora of useful information can be found there! Follow us on Instagram, Facebook and Twitter @AVmosquito. We update those sites regularly with mosquito-control tips and up-to-date disease detections.

### DID YOU KNOW?!

The District provides **FREE** mosquito fish to all District residents for placement on their property. Just call the District office at (661) 942-2917 to request **FREE** mosquitofish for your home.

Mosquito fish (*Gambusia affinis*) are small, guppy-like fish that feed primarily on small aquatic insects, such as mosquito larvae.

**Mosquito fish have many benefits in mosquito control. They are:**

- able to mature, reproduce and survive well in a variety of water conditions
- able to tolerate moderately high levels of salt, algae, pollutants, and a temperature range from nearly freezing to above 100° Fahrenheit
- compatible with most ornamental pond fish, including Goldfish, Koi and Carp
- perfect for permanent mosquito breeding sources (basins, ponds, horse troughs, rain barrels, unused pools)

Since mosquito fish are not native to California, it is prohibited to use them in natural water ways (creeks, streams, lakes).





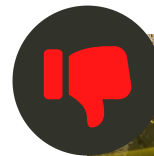
# TECHNICIAN'S TIPS



*One of the largest contributors to mosquito problems in our community are unkempt swimming pools.*

In an irritating coincidence, mosquito season also happens to be pool season. One of the largest contributors to mosquito problems in our community are unkempt swimming pools. During the 2020 year, the District identified over 2,000 pools in the Antelope Valley area that were in need of cleaning or repair; all of which were a potential mega-home for mosquito larvae.

Pool maintenance is vital to the health and wellbeing of the community as a whole and we encourage residents to keep their swimming pools clean and functional or completely dry. To report a dirty/ nuisance pool or to get help with a mosquito problem until you can repair your pool, please don't hesitate to call the office at 661.942.2917.



### Contact us!

M-Th 8:00 A.M. TO 3:30 P.M.  
Fri 8:00 A.M. TO 2:30 P.M.  
661.942.2917  
[www.avmosquito.org](http://www.avmosquito.org)

Nice weather and the continued need for social distancing during the Covid19 pandemic mean that outdoor activities are on the rise. The District would like to toss out a reminder that insect repellent is a crucial part of outdoor activity. There is no cure for mosquito-borne illnesses, so prevention of mosquito bites is of utmost importance. It only takes one bite!

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 graphic to the right shows where the active ingredients are usually listed as well as the percentage of that ingredient. The higher the percentage that is listed, the longer the coverage will last. Always be sure to follow label instructions when applying insect repellent.



### Report a mosquito nuisance/dirty Pool:

Leann@avmosquito.org  
avmosquito.org/contact-us.html  
661.942.2917

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