



**Antelope Valley Mosquito
& Vector Control District**
42624 6th St. East
Lancaster, CA 93535
(661) 942-2917
www.avmosquito.org

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Contact:

Brenna Bates-Grubb-Community Outreach Specialist
Karen Mellor-Entomologist

Antelope Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District Conducts Annual Aerial Flyover

Lancaster, CA – The Antelope Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District conducted an annual aerial flyover in June of 2020. This flyover method used by the District has been successful in years past to help identify pools that are unmaintained and are a potential source of mosquito breeding. One unmaintained swimming pool has the potential to produce millions of mosquitoes over the course of a month.

This becomes a major threat to public health because West Nile virus (WNV) is carried and transmitted through the bite of an infected mosquito. West Nile virus is endemic to the Antelope Valley, which means that locally we detect the presence of WNV in some form (birds, mosquitoes, horses or humans) every mosquito season. Since the threat of West Nile virus looms every year, controlling the mosquito population is vital to the health of our community; and controlling the mosquito population involves properly maintaining or completely draining swimming pools.

Over the course of the next few weeks, we will be sending out letters to residences that the aerial system identified as a potential habitat for mosquitoes. The system that we use is not flawless, however, it does help us locate and treat a large majority of unmaintained swimming pools within our district boundaries. Sending out letters to the community is a no-contact approach to helping us protect the public health of our community from mosquito-borne illness. In light of the present COVID-19 situation, this method protects our staff and members of the community alike. If you receive a letter about a potentially unmaintained pool on your property, the process to take care of it is simple:

- 1.) If the pool is clean, completely empty or was misidentified as a pool, send a verification photo by text or email to (661) 387-2300 or Leann@avmosquito.org. Please include the service request number in the subject of an email or the body of a text message. Hold the notice in the foreground of the photo so that the clean, empty or misidentified pool can be seen in the background. Please be sure that the date, address and service request number on the notification are visible. (See sample photo)



- 2.) If the pool is green or unmaintained, Text (661) 387-2300, email Leann@avmosquito.org or call (661) 942-2917 to set up a treatment plan that will keep mosquitoes at bay until the pool can be repaired/properly maintained or completely drained. Please include the service request number in the body of the text or in the subject of the email. **There is NO charge for District services.**

The District also urges residents to do their part to protect themselves from mosquito bites by following these recommendations:

- Wear EPA registered repellents that contain ingredients such as DEET, picaridin, oil of lemon eucalyptus, or IR3535 to exposed skin and/or clothing (as directed on the product label).

- Wear long sleeve shirts, long pants, socks and shoes when mosquitoes are present.
- 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 or debris.
- Clean and scrub out bird baths and pet watering dishes weekly.
- Check indoor plants that are kept in standing water for mosquito activity (i.e. Bamboo and Philodendron)

Report any day-time biting mosquitoes to the AVMVCD at 661-942-2917

To stay up-to-date on any mosquito related information check out our website at www.avmosquito.org, Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/avmosquito>), and follow us on Twitter and Instagram @AVMosquito.

For any further questions or services please feel free to contact the Antelope Valley Mosquito & Vector Control District by phone (661-942-2917).

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