



Coachella Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District

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PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
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INVASIVE AEDES MOSQUITO DETECTED IN RANCHO MIRAGE

Residents urged to rid yards of containers that hold standing water

INDIO, CA, AUGUST 28, 2018: The Coachella Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District has detected *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes in Rancho Mirage. District laboratory staff confirmed that two mosquito larvae and four mosquito pupae collected by field technicians in a Rancho Mirage neighborhood were identified as an invasive mosquito species capable of transmitting harmful viruses such as chikungunya, dengue, yellow fever, and Zika. While these viruses are not currently transmitted locally, the District is taking steps to reduce the spread of this mosquito throughout the Coachella Valley. Rancho Mirage is now the 8th Valley city where this invasive mosquito has been detected.

This week, District technician teams will conduct additional mosquito surveillance in the area and start door-to-door inspections searching for and removing containers that can hold standing water in people's yards where this mosquito species commonly lays its eggs. Technicians will carry out control activities as necessary and educate residents on what they should do weekly to prevent mosquito breeding around their property.

The door-to-door inspections will be carried out within 450 feet radius of Gerald Ford Dr. and Plumley Rd. in Rancho Mirage. Residents living in this area will receive notices starting Wednesday, August 29, alerting them about the presence of this mosquito and upcoming inspections and control efforts.

Aedes aegypti mosquitoes are small (about ¼ inch), black and white, and feed almost exclusively on humans, biting aggressively all day long. To eliminate this mosquito, people need to eliminate all possible standing water sources where mosquitoes lay eggs. The public plays a critical role in helping to control the spread of this mosquito.

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“Reducing the population of *Aedes aegypti* is the District’s main goal to prevent local transmission of the diseases they can transmit, but we cannot do it alone.” says Jeremy Wittie, MS, General Manager of the District. “Populations of these mosquitoes peak in September and October. Residents play a vital role in reducing the abundance and distribution of this mosquito by draining or removing containers with standing water weekly and contacting the District if you suspect this black and white mosquito is present in your neighborhood.”

The District recommends that people making plans to travel to areas with active transmission of chikungunya, dengue, and Zika viruses protect themselves from mosquito bites by applying repellents containing EPA-registered ingredients, and wear long sleeve shirts, long pants, socks and shoes. Individuals infected with these viruses may experience symptoms, such as fever, headache, joint pain, muscle aches, seizures, rashes, and in rare cases, death. Should people experience any of these symptoms after returning from an area where mosquito-borne diseases are transmitted, the District urges them to protect themselves from mosquito bites locally and to contact their health care provider. Residents can check mosquito-borne disease activity ahead of their travels by visiting <https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel>.

How residents can help reduce mosquitoes:

- **Drain Standing Water.** Mosquitoes lay eggs in and near standing water. Limit the number of places for mosquitoes to breed by draining/discarding items that hold water, such as old tires, buckets, and empty flower pots. Check rain gutters and drains. Empty water from saucers under pots and water-holding plants such as bromeliads, and regularly change the water in root plant cuttings (both indoors and outdoors). Change water and scrub wading pools, birdbaths, and pet bowls at least weekly.
- **Install or Repair Screens.** Keep mosquitoes out with tight-fitting screens on all windows and doors.

How residents can protect themselves from mosquito bites:

- **Apply Insect Repellent.** Use a repellent with DEET (N, N-diethyl-m-toluamide), picaridin (KBR 3023), oil of lemon eucalyptus [p-methane 3, 8-diol (PMD)] or IR3535 according to the instructions on the product label. DEET products should not be used on infants under two months of age and should be used in concentrations of 30% or less on older children. Lemon eucalyptus oil should not be used on children under three years of age.
- **Be Aware of the Peak Hours for Mosquitoes.** Be aware of day-time biting mosquitoes and report them to the District, as these could be *Aedes aegypti*. Also be aware of mosquitoes that can transmit West Nile and Saint Louis encephalitis viruses. These mosquitoes typically bite at dawn and dusk.
- **Clothing Can Help Reduce Mosquito Bites.** Wear long-sleeves, long pants, and socks when outdoors to help keep mosquitoes away from skin.

Please contact the District at (760) 342-8287 to report mosquito problems, request mosquitofish, and report neglected pools or standing water where mosquitoes breed. Visit us online at www.cvmvcd.org to obtain more information.

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