



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

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

August 5th, 2020

Contact:

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

Invasive Aedes Mosquito Reappears in Lancaster and Palmdale, CA

Lancaster, CA – The Antelope Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District has detected two samples of an invasive mosquito. One sample was collected near 30th West and Avenue L in Lancaster and the other sample was detected in Palmdale near 25th Street East and Avenue R-8. The District has detected this invasive mosquito in these same two locations in years prior, but this is the first detection for the 2020 season. District entomologist, Karen Mellor, identified these samples as *Aedes aegypti*, also known as the Yellow Fever mosquito. Mellor states, “This type of mosquito was first discovered in the Antelope Valley in October of 2018, but we have since detected it several more times during the 2019 season, and now this year.”

Aedes aegypti is a small black and white mosquito that is closely associated with human dwellings. Unlike our native *Culex* mosquitoes that generally bite during dusk and dawn and tend to be less aggressive, *Aedes* mosquitoes will actively pursue people, throughout the entire day and into the evening.

Invasive *Aedes* mosquitoes feed almost exclusively on humans, biting aggressively all day long. Female mosquitoes will lay eggs in small containers, just above the water

line. The eggs can dry up and survive for six or more months, waiting for the container to re-flood so they can hatch.

Aedes aegypti have the potential to carry very different diseases than our native *Culex* mosquitoes and are known transmitters of diseases like Yellow Fever, Dengue Fever, Chikungunya, and Zika virus. “Although these mosquitoes have the potential to carry these diseases, there is currently no local transmission occurring,” said District Manager Cei Kratz. “Keeping mosquito populations low remains of utmost importance due to the potential for these diseases to make their way into the mosquito population,” states Kratz.

AVMVCD personnel have increased mosquito surveillance in these areas and will continue to place traps that are designed to attract egg-laying *Aedes* mosquitoes. Once trapped, the mosquitoes are contaminated with larvicide. When they leave the trap, they spread larvicide to several breeding sites around the trap which targets larvae in small and hard to find breeding sources. The adult mosquito also gets infected with a mosquito-specific fungus that kills her before she can spread disease. In addition to increased surveillance efforts, residents in the surrounding area will be informed about the proximity of this invasive mosquito and will be advised to do their part to eliminate this mosquito.

The public plays a critical role in helping to control the spread of this mosquito population. All possible sources of standing water where mosquitoes lay eggs such as buckets, tires, and plant saucers should be emptied of standing water. Scrubbing the insides of the containers is also recommended, as this can dislodge eggs deposited above the water line. The District also urges residents to do their part to protect themselves from mosquito bites by following these recommendations:

- Wear EPA registered 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 most active.
- 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 and debris.
- Clean and scrub 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).

###