



**Antelope Valley Mosquito
& Vector Control District**
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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

October 5, 2018

Contact:

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Invasive Mosquito Found in Lancaster

Lancaster, CA – The Antelope Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District has detected an invasive mosquito in a neighborhood in Lancaster. The District entomologist identified that the sample collected near Avenue J and Foxton Avenue as *Aedes aegypti*. This is the first time this mosquito was detected in the Antelope Valley.

Aedes aegypti is a small black and white mosquito that is closely associated with human dwellings. They will actively pursue people, both during the day and in the evening. *Aedes aegypti* are known transmitters of diseases like Yellow Fever, Dengue Fever, Chikungunya, and Zika virus.

“This mosquito has been spreading throughout California for the past few years, but has never been detected in the Antelope Valley until now,” said District Manager Cei Kratz. “It is a very aggressive day-time biter, which is different from our usual mosquitoes, which bite during dusk and dawn.”

Invasive *Aedes* mosquitoes are small (about ¼ inch), black and white, and feed almost exclusively on humans, biting aggressively all day long. Female mosquitoes will lay eggs in small containers, just above the water line, and they can dry up and survive for six or more months. 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 population.

AVMVCD personnel will be increasing mosquito trapping and conducting an intensive door-to-door survey in the vicinity of this find to increase public awareness and figure out the extent of the infestation.

The District is also urging residents to remove all standing water sources, especially small items such as buckets, tires, and plant saucers. 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:

- Check property for standing water and get rid of it, even very small sources
- Use CDC recommended insect repellents when outside during mosquito activity (DEET, Picaridin, Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus, IR3535)
- Check around faucets and air conditioner units, and repair leaks or puddles that remain for several days
- Report any day-time biting mosquitoes to the AVMVCD

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 @AVMosquito. For more information on invasive *Aedes* mosquitoes, visit www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/Aedes-aegypti-and-Aedes-albopictus-mosquitoes.aspx.

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