



For Immediate Release

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As Summer Heats Up Mosquito Experts Urge Residents to Be Vigilant and Protect Themselves from Mosquito-Transmitted Diseases

SACRAMENTO, June 16, 2022 -- Summer is the height of mosquito season in California, and mosquito experts say it's important for residents to take precautions to protect themselves from mosquito bites. Mosquitoes are more than a nuisance; they can spread debilitating diseases such as West Nile virus. Wearing insect repellent and dumping and draining standing water in and around homes are easy ways residents can help control mosquitoes and keep themselves and their family safe.

["National Mosquito Control Awareness Week"](#), celebrated June 19-25 throughout the country, is a good time for community members to ensure they are doing their part to protect themselves from mosquito-transmitted diseases," said Assemblymember Bill Quirk (D-Hayward).

"Residents can take simple steps to help eliminate mosquitoes from their community and protect themselves from mosquito bites."

It is also important for residents to know they have local mosquito experts who are working hard to reduce the mosquito population in their communities. For more than 100 years, mosquito and vector control agencies, which are typically funded by property taxes and/or benefit assessments, have been providing information, resources, and mosquito control services to keep communities safe.

According to a report from the [National Association of County and City Health Officials](#) (NACCHO), "It is essential to have a well-functioning local vector surveillance and control system across the country, not only to address routine community risks but also to monitor for new vector-borne pathogens and prevent vector-borne epidemics."

Mosquito and vector control agencies use an [Integrated Vector Management](#) (IVM) approach, which is an evidence-based, data-driven decision-making strategy to suppress mosquito-borne diseases. Some mosquitoes, such as invasive *Aedes*, are particularly hard to control, and mosquito experts are exploring innovative mosquito control methods to add to their IVM portfolio.

"As mosquito-related public health threats continue to evolve, so does the public health response," said Ken Klemme, president of the [Mosquito and Vector Control Association of California](#). "This could include incorporating drones or evaluating the use of innovative technologies. While decisions about which mosquito control technique will be most effective in

different areas and conditions are made at a local level, all mosquito control agencies have one thing in common: our unwavering commitment to protect public health.”

Some of the innovative technologies that mosquito and vector control agencies in California are exploring include: [self-limiting mosquitoes](#), [Wolbachia](#), and [irradiation](#). More information about the need for innovative technologies and how they work is available on the [MVCAC website](#).

Everyone can do their part to help prevent mosquito bites:

- Apply [insect repellent containing an EPA-registered active ingredient](#), including DEET, picaridin, oil of lemon eucalyptus, or IR3535, to clothes and exposed skin according to label instructions. Repellents keep mosquitoes from biting. It is important to follow EPA and [CDC guidelines](#) for the safe use of repellents on children.
- Dress in long sleeves and pants, especially if outside at dawn and dusk when mosquitoes that can spread West Nile virus are most active.
- Install screens on windows and doors and keep them in good repair to keep mosquitoes out of your home.
- Eliminate all sources of standing water on your property, including in flowerpots, old tires, buckets, pet dishes, and trash cans. Mosquitoes lay their eggs in very small amounts of standing water.
- Repair leaking faucets and broken sprinklers that can contribute to standing water around your home.
- Clean rain gutters clogged with leaves, which can also contribute to standing water.
- Report neglected swimming pools and day-biting mosquitoes to your local mosquito and vector control agency (agency information can be found at www.mvcac.org)

To learn more, check out the [videos on the MVCAC website](#), and for additional information on mosquitoes and mosquito-borne diseases, please visit the [California Department of Public Health Mosquitoes and Mosquito-Borne Diseases webpage](#).

About MVCAC

The [Mosquito and Vector Control Association of California](#) (MVCAC) is the statewide voice for mosquito and vector control professionals. The association provides public health information, expertise, mosquito and vector-borne disease surveillance, innovative research, professional training, effective legislative and regulatory advocacy on behalf of California public agencies.