



PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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INVASIVE AEDES MOSQUITOES FOUND IN COACHELLA

This is the first detection of dangerous mosquito species Aedes aegypti in the Coachella Valley

INDIO, CA, MAY 9, 2016: The Coachella Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District has detected *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes in Coachella near the intersection of Calle Camacho and Calle Rojo. The species identification was confirmed May 9, 2016 by District laboratory staff and marks the first detection of *Aedes aegypti* in the Coachella Valley. The District will be sending out surveillance and control teams to the area over the next several days to evaluate the extent of the infestation and aggressively target problem areas to prevent the spread of these mosquitoes. The *Aedes aegypti* mosquito has the potential to transmit deadly viruses including dengue, chikungunya, Zika, and yellow fever, viruses not currently transmitted in California by mosquitoes. While the mosquito is not native to California, it has been found in dozens of communities in California over the last few years, including Riverside, San Jacinto, Imperial, El Centro, and Los Angeles and San Diego counties.

“This mosquito bites during the day, is much more aggressive in its biting behavior than our native species, and prefers to breed around and bite humans,” said Jeremy Wittie, M.S., District General Manager. “This is not the kind of new neighbor any of us want and we are doing everything to help ensure this mosquito does not become established in our community.”

The District has deployed a variety of traps for adult mosquitoes and mosquito eggs surrounding the location where *Aedes aegypti* were found.

Additionally, District staff are conducting door-to-door inspections of properties for mosquito breeding and standing water at homes near the detection sites.

The public can play a critical role in helping to control the spread of this mosquito population. *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes are small (about ¼ inch), black and white, and bite aggressively during the day. They lay eggs just above the water line in small containers and vessels that hold water, such as dishes, potted plants, bird baths, ornamental fountains, tin cans, or discarded tires.

Prevent *Aedes aegypti* development in your yard:

- 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.

Prevent mosquito bites:

- Apply repellents containing 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.

Residents experiencing mosquito bites during the day should report them immediately to the Coachella Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District. If you are sick with fever, headache, and joint or muscle pain after returning from an area where dengue, chikungunya, or Zika occurs, contact your doctor and stay indoors as much as possible to avoid mosquito bites and help prevent possible spread of the virus.

For more information, please go to the District website at www.cvmvcd.org or call (760) 342-8287. For more information on mosquito-borne disease transmission to humans in Riverside County visit www.rivco-diseasecontrol.org. More information on the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito can be found at California Department of Public Health: <http://www.cdph.ca.gov/HealthInfo/discond/Pages/Aedes-albopictus-and-Aedes-aegypti-Mosquitoes.aspx>

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*Protect Coachella Valley. **Fight the Bite!** Together.*

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