

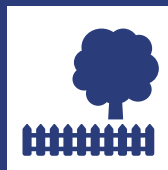
Mosquitoes ARE COMING

INSIDE

Find out how
you can stop
them...



In Your Home



In Your Yard



Outdoors



Invasive Mosquito Migration

BY JENNIE XUE

Protect yourself from disease-carrying mosquitoes

The County of Santa Clara Vector Control District, educates the public on the impending threat of invasive mosquitoes migrating toward Santa Clara County.

Currently, the invasive threat consists of three *Aedes* mosquito species: the yellow fever mosquito, the Asian tiger mosquito and the Australian backyard mosquito. What makes these mosquitoes particularly troublesome is their preference for humans and their feeding schedules. Unlike most native California mosquitoes that feed at night, these invasive species are aggressive daytime biters.

Because these mosquitoes prefer human blood over other animals', they will go to great lengths to follow people indoors to get a blood meal.

"The sooner the district knows that these invasive mosquitoes have arrived in our county, the better chance we have of eradicating them," said Nayer Zahiri, District Manager.

With the right preventive actions from the county, in collaboration with community members, there's a strong chance of preventing new mosquito species from settling in Santa Clara County and propagating fatal diseases like dengue, yellow fever, chikungunya and Zika in humans or heartworm in dogs and cats.

"The first known local transmission of disease was seen in the transmission of Zika virus in Miami, Florida in 2016. None of those *Aedes* mosquitoes have transmitted the disease to people in California, but the Vector Control District has a plan in case it happens," said Ebrahimi, MSPH, PH.D., Assistant Manager.

Vector identification is essential when it comes to combating invasive mosquitoes. These "mosquitoes are black with some white strips or bands on their legs and abdomen," Ebrahimi said. "Their larvae can breed in tiny amounts of water, such as in water caps, and all *Aedes* are aggressive biters especially during the day," he added.

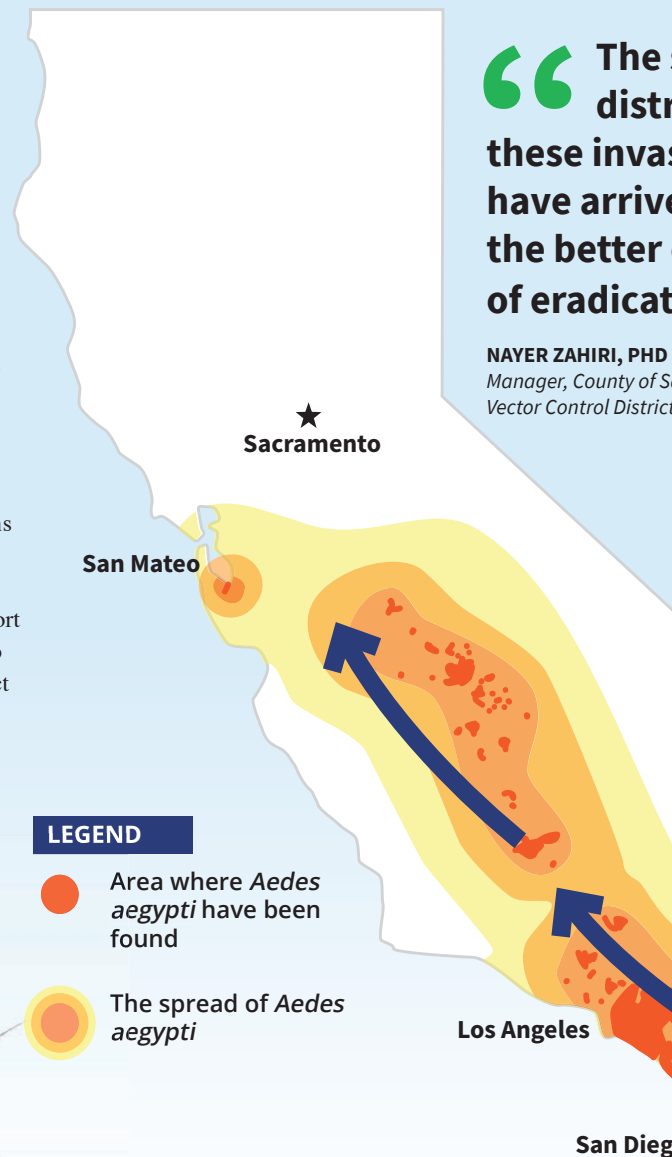
They lay eggs in moist soil or plant materials. These eggs can withstand harsh and dry conditions for months waiting for a small amount of water to hatch. Once hatched, it takes them less than a week in warm summer conditions to emerge as adults.

Because *Aedes* are a threat to human health, "Residents are encouraged to report any suspicious behavior of mosquitoes to their Vector Control District. We'll collect samples and identify them," Ebrahimi reassured the public that the county is vigilant in combating vector invasion.

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NAYER ZAHIRI, PH.D.
Manager, County of Santa Clara
Vector Control District



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Ways to Mosquito Proof Your Home



Drain water on a weekly basis from flower pots, buckets and toys that are left in the backyard.



Find and fix leaking pipes, hoses or sprinkler heads immediately.



Repair cracks and tears in door and window screens, so mosquitoes can't sneak in.



Avoid over-watering the lawn or plants as the excess water is a breeding source for mosquitoes.



Always keep rain barrels and cisterns covered, as standing water invites mosquitoes.



Add mosquitofish to water gardens and ponds to reduce mosquito breeding.



Remove all small containers such as plant saucers, tires, buckets, cans, flower vases and birdbaths.

Aedes aegypti

Pest Protection

BY
THEA
MARIE ROOD

The three ways County of Santa Clara Vector Control District keeps residents safe

sooner the
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Santa Clara
County



BIOLOGICAL CONTROL

Biological control includes mosquitofish, which are natural predators of mosquito larvae and can be placed in standing water, such as backyard water gardens, ornamental ponds or pools that aren't being used. The district will deliver mosquitofish to residents free of charge.

“The Vector Control District strives to follow an integrated pest management strategy,” said Hector Cardenas, Operations Supervisor for the district. “The purpose of this strategy is to ... control public health pests and vectors with environmentally friendly approaches.”

“The public can also help by reducing the amount of standing water on their property by dumping and draining containers that collect water,” Cardenas added.



PHOTO BY GEORGE E. BAKER JR.

SURVEILLANCE

Surveillance by district officials is also ongoing and focused on mosquitoes, ticks and rodent-borne diseases.

Additionally, the district detects the presence of vector-borne diseases like plague, West Nile virus, rabies, and Lyme disease, through ongoing surveillance and testing.

“We have a dedicated team ... and they are constantly monitoring Santa Clara County for any potential or emerging threats,” Cardenas said. “Residents are always encouraged to report any issues they see concerning mosquito breeding — standing water and neglected pools — or any dead birds found in the local area which could indicate West Nile virus,” said Noor Tietze, PhD, District Science Technology Services Manager.



EDUCATION & OUTREACH

The district's education and outreach programs are both informative and engaging, and can be found across various media.

In general, these campaigns teach the public to be proactive and to protect their properties, their pets and themselves from pests and vectors. “For example, we recommend residents install tight-fitting screens on their windows and doors to prevent mosquitoes entering the home,” said Cardenas.

The district also offers K-12 school presentations and can bring educational booths or lecturers to community events or gatherings. “We have hands-on activities for kids, as well as educational materials,” said Beverly Perez, Community Resources Specialist for the district. “It's all at no charge. People can schedule a presentation or educational booth through our website's Community Outreach page.”

Deterrence Outdoors



Mosquito Bite Prevention

- Wear long sleeves, pants and light-colored clothing
- Apply insect repellent approved by the U.S. EPA to exposed skin
- Take extra precaution at dawn and dusk, when mosquitoes are most active



Tick Prevention

- Apply a tick repellent approved by the U.S. EPA to exposed skin
- Wear light-colored clothing (which makes spotting ticks easier)
- Wear long pants, long sleeves, long socks and closed-toe shoes
- Stay in the center of trails
- Avoid grassy areas, logs, tree trunks and fallen branches
- Periodically check yourself and your pets for ticks
- When you return home, tumble dry clothes on high heat for 10 minutes (which will kill ticks)
- Shower within two hours of leaving a tick habitat
- Properly and promptly remove any attached ticks from yourself or your pets

The Vector Control District is Here to Help You!



PHOTO BY BEVERLY PEREZ

The County of Santa Clara Vector Control District offers a variety of services and educational tools to help the public protect themselves from animals and insects that can harm county residents.

Our Services Include

- Regular inspections of known mosquito sources to eliminate breeding conditions
- Responding to customer-initiated service requests for identification, advice and control measures for mosquitoes, rodents, wildlife and other invertebrates like ticks, yellow jackets, cockroaches, bees, fleas, flies and more
- Free mosquitofish deliveries
- Giving presentations at schools, homeowners associations, private businesses, civic groups and other interested community organizations about vectors in the region and how community members can protect themselves
- Providing educational material on all vectors and vector-borne diseases in the region
- Response to neglected pool reports

We also provide insect identification!



To find out more about how the County of Santa Clara Vector Control District can help, visit the website at: sccvector.org



Our Commitment to You

Established in 1988, County of Santa Clara Vector Control District's mission is to detect and minimize vector borne diseases, to abate mosquitoes and to assist the public in resolving problems that cause disease, discomfort or injury to humans in Santa Clara County.

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