



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 17, 2024

Ventura County Adopts New Advanced Software to Combat Mosquitoes and Diseases Amid Expected Summer Surge

VENTURA COUNTY, Calif. – The County of Ventura is taking proactive measures to combat an anticipated sharp rise in mosquito populations this summer by employing advanced tracking software. This map-based software allows vector control technicians to track mosquito breeding sites and their activities, enabling technicians to make informed decisions about the best actions to take.

National Mosquito Awareness Week, observed from June 16-22, serves as a timely reminder for residents to be proactive in preventing mosquito bites and controlling mosquito populations. The past two years of heavy rains have left a significant amount of surface water across the landscape, creating ideal breeding conditions for mosquitoes. The longer days of summer and impending heat will soon lead to a surge. The Environmental Health Division (Division) urges the public to take immediate steps to protect themselves and their community.

The Division recommends the following protective actions:

- Eliminate, treat, or mosquito-proof all instances of standing water.
- Wear an EPA-approved and CDC-recommended repellent and protective clothing when mosquitoes are active.
- Ensure window screens are in place and in good repair.
- Stock water features with free mosquito fish available from the Environmental Health Division.

West Nile Virus (WNV) is established throughout Ventura County, and transmission to people is more likely in summer and early fall when temperatures are warm. WNV is spread by common species of Culex mosquitoes that usually feed on birds but will also bite people. While most people bitten by an infected mosquito do not show any symptoms, some become seriously ill, and some cases can be fatal. Additionally, the invasive, day-biting Aedes aegypti mosquito continues to spread into new neighborhoods. Aedes aegypti can transmit several viruses, including dengue, chikungunya, Zika, and yellow fever.

The Division monitors and controls mosquito breeding sources throughout Ventura County. If you see potential mosquito breeding conditions, please call the mosquito complaint HOTLINE at

805/658-4310. To request free mosquito fish, please call 805/662-6582. Dead birds can be reported for mosquito-borne disease testing by calling 877/WNV-BIRD (877/968-2473).

For more information, please visit: [Ventura County Vector Control Program]

<https://vcrma.org/en/vector-control-program>

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