INVASIVE MOSQUITO SPECIES

INVASIVE MOSQUITO SPECIES IN CALIFORNIA

The ***Aedes albopictus***, or the Asian tiger mosquito, is an aggressive day-biting mosquito capable of transmitting the viruses that cause dengue, chikungunya, and Eastern equine encephalitis. None of these viruses are known to be transmitted within California at this time. This species is mostly an outdoor mosquito but uses water-holding containers around households, such as tires, vases, rain gutters, and ornamental ponds to lay eggs. This mosquito has a black body with distinct silver-white bands/stripes on its legs, proboscis, head, and body.

Aedes aegypti, or the yellow fever mosquito, is the main dengue and yellow fever virus vector worldwide, and can also transmit the virus causing chikungunya. This species prefers to be indoors and feeds primarily on humans and to a lesser degree other mammals. Like the ***Ae. albopictus***, it lays its eggs mainly in artificial containers but may also lay eggs in natural cavities such as tree holes. Their development can occur in about a week and their adult life span is around three weeks.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON INVASIVE MOSQUITOES

Go to the California Department of Public Health website at **https://www.cdph.ca.gov/HEALTHINFO/DISCOND/Pages/Aedes-albopictus-and-Aedes-aegypti-Mosquitoes.aspx**

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT INVASIVE MOSQUITO SPECIES

Two invasive mosquitoes that are known to transmit exotic viruses to humans including dengue, chikungunya, yellow fever, and Zika, have been introduced to California and one of them, the *Aedes aegypti* has been detected in the Coachella Valley. These invasive mosquitoes are thought to have been introduced through shipments of exotic plants or imported tires.

Currently, there have been no reports of people or mosquitoes contracting these exotic viruses locally in California. However, with the detection of invasive mosquitoes, the chances of local transmission increases, including the low risk that travelers returning from areas where these diseases are transmitted could infect a local mosquito. Some of the symptoms of dengue include fever, headache, joint and muscle pain, bleeding, and shock in some cases.

INVASIVE MOSQUITO SPECIES ENVIRONMENT AND BEHAVIOR

- Adult mosquitoes are aggressive, bite in the daytime, have short flight ranges, and repeatedly bite humans and other mammals.
- These species are known as container-breeding mosquitoes because they prefer small water holding containers for laying eggs and larval development.
- They depend on human habitat to breed and develop specifically within residential properties, resulting in patchy widespread distributions.
- Eggs are difficult to detect and they continue to be viable for months on dry surfaces of containers.

What You Can Do:

Protect Yourself!

* Wear long sleeve shirts, pants, and socks to prevent bites.
* Use repellent with DEET, oil of lemon eucalyptus, or picaridin.
* Install and maintain screens on windows and doors to keep mosquitoes out.
* Seek medical care if feeling ill following a mosquito bite.
* Contact the District if you observe black day-biting mosquitoes with white striped legs.

Reduce Mosquito Breeding Sites

* Get rid of, or regularly drain, containers that hold water in the yard.
* Remove water dishes beneath potted plants.
* Maintain swimming pools.
* Change pet water bowls daily and bird baths weekly.
* Check gutters for standing water.
* Fill tree holes and other cavities in plants with sand or soil.
* Report neglected pools or standing water to the District.

What We Do: Certified vector control technicians conduct surveillance regularly throughout the Valley and are on the lookout for invasive mosquito species. The District's Call Center staff are trained to ask questions of residents complaining of mosquito bites about the time of day the mosquitoes are biting and the size and color of the mosquitoes. The Scientific Operations department is implementing a response plan to address the invasive species now detected in the Coachella Valley. For more information, contact the District at (760) 342-8287 or visit our website at **www.cvmvcd.org.**

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