

Orange County Mosquito and Vector Control District

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Recent rains coupled with warm weather create ideal conditions for mosquitoes

Mosquito Awareness Week educates residents on mosquito prevention and disease protection

Garden Grove, CA. After the significant rainfall received this winter, vector control experts stress the need for Californians to take an active role in mosquito control by checking their property for any standing water. The Orange County Mosquito and Vector Control District (OCMVCD / District) joins health officials and cities across the state to promote California Mosquito Awareness Week, April 21-27.

“California Mosquito Awareness Week is an opportunity for the community to become more aware about the public health threats mosquitoes pose to our communities, and to take early preventative action against mosquitoes,” said Mary-Joy Coburn, OCMVCD public information officer.

In addition to being a nuisance, mosquitoes pose a serious public health risk as infected mosquitoes can spread West Nile virus, which can cause serious illness, or even death. In the past five years, there have been 461 human cases reported in Orange County, including 23 deaths.

Orange County is also home to invasive *Aedes* mosquitoes, which can transmit Zika, dengue, chikungunya, and yellow fever. There have been no local outbreaks of these viruses in the county, however the presence of *Aedes* mosquitoes increases the risk. These mosquitoes are now established in 28 cities and unincorporated areas around the county.

As part of the state’s Mosquito Week activities, the OCMVCD will be launching the “Mosquito Minute” video series to discuss relevant mosquito topics and upcoming outreach events throughout the summer. The District is also rolling out three videos in multiple languages to help residents protect their homes from mosquitoes. Visit the OCMVCD booth at the Family Pet Expo in Costa Mesa, Home & Garden Show in Anaheim, and the Spring Jubilee in Fountain Valley this weekend. Follow the District’s Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram pages to participate in quizzes, polls, prizes, and to learn more.

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Residents should take the following precautions to help reduce the chances of being bit by mosquitoes:

- Dump and drain any containers filled with water at least once a week
- Clean and scrub bird baths and pet water bowls weekly
- Dump water from potted plant saucers
- Do not transport or share plant clippings rooted in water
- Drill a hole or puncture containers to eliminate standing water

To prevent mosquito bites, the District offers the following tips:

- Apply mosquito repellents to exposed skin before going outdoors; reapply as recommended
- Wear repellent containing DEET®, Picaridin, IR3535, or oil of lemon eucalyptus
- Close all unscreened doors and windows to prevent mosquitoes from entering your home or space; repair broken or damaged screens
- Wear long-sleeved shirts and long pants, and opt for lighter-colored clothing

Residents are encouraged to sign-up for District email notifications. For more information, visit www.ocvector.org.

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