

Invasive Mosquitoes are Spreading in California and We Need Your Help

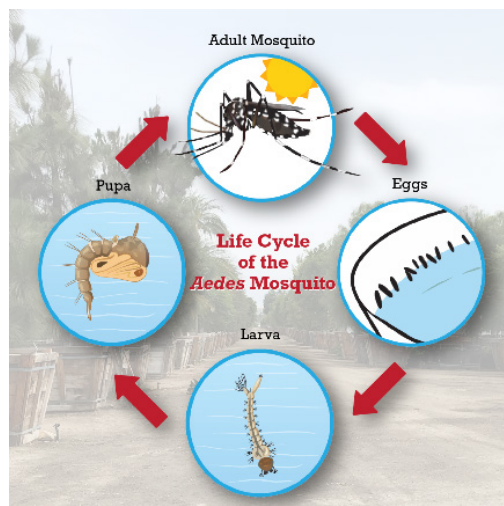
A new type of mosquito—invasive *Aedes*—is spreading throughout the state and we need your help to keep them out of your neighborhood! Invasive *Aedes* mosquitoes were first discovered in California in 2011, and they have spread to over 25 counties since then. They are not from California, so they don't thrive in natural areas, but they live and thrive in cities.

It's important to prevent invasive *Aedes* mosquitoes from spreading because they can be an extreme nuisance and can spread diseases to people like Zika, dengue, chikungunya, and yellow fever. Fortunately, these diseases are not currently in California but once invasive *Aedes* mosquitoes invade an area, they are **very difficult** to control.

These mosquitoes live in close proximity to humans, often in people's backyards and patios—areas where mosquito control districts can't easily inspect. You can help protect your family and neighborhood public health by preventing these mosquitoes from breeding where you live!

Be on the lookout for:

- ✓ Small, black mosquitoes with white stripes (about 1/4 inch long)
- ✓ Mosquitoes that bite during the day and at night—even indoors
- ✓ Mosquito larvae (wigglers) swimming in stagnant water
- ✓ Eggs that look like tiny black seeds found on the insides of water containers



Aedes aegypti (Yellow Fever Mosquito)



Aedes albopictus (Asian Tiger Mosquito)



Aedes notoscriptus (Australian Backyard Mosquito)



Aedes aegypti mosquito eggs



Aedes mosquito larvae and pupae

What can you do to keep invasive *Aedes* from spreading?

✓ **Dump and drain any standing water in or around your home.**

Invasive *Aedes* mosquitoes are “container breeders,” which means they prefer to lay their eggs on the inside of containers filled with water or on stems of plants growing in water. These eggs can survive for YEARS (even if they dry up) and will hatch when they come in contact with water again. Invasive *Aedes* mosquitoes will lay eggs in a container as small as a bottle cap.

- Prevent water from accumulating in containers such as plant pots, saucers, barrels, bins, buckets, and old tires (Hint: store containers upside down, remove them, drain them weekly, or drill holes so that water will drain out)
- Keep pet dishes, bird baths, and kiddie pools scrubbed and clean
- Cover outdoor trash cans, toys, and recycle bins, and keep items that could hold water out of the rain and away from sprinklers
- Be sure rain barrels are properly sealed, screen any openings

✓ **Don't transport or share plants with stems rooted in water because they could be home to mosquito eggs.**

- Scrub plant pots and saucers before moving them

✓ **Keep your home and property mosquito-free.**

- Install screens on windows and doors and keep them in good repair
- Fix outdoor leaking faucets and broken sprinklers
- Clean rain gutters clogged with leaves

✓ **Wear insect repellent that contains DEET, picaridin, IR3535, oil of lemon eucalyptus, para-menthane-diol, or 2-undecanone.**

To keep mosquitoes from biting, wear insect repellent on your clothes and exposed skin, especially legs and ankles, when you are outside, **even during the day**.

- Repellents with a higher percentage of active ingredient (20% or 30% DEET) usually work for longer periods of time
- EPA-registered repellent is safe for pregnant women and children - be sure to follow the label instructions before using
- When going outside during the day, it's important to apply insect repellent **after** applying sunscreen
- Keep a can of repellent handy in your home so you remember to use it before going outside

✓ **Contact the district if you see or are bitten by small, black-and-white mosquitoes during the day.**

Mosquito control districts are working to develop new ways to control invasive *Aedes* mosquitoes because they are developing resistance to commonly used insecticides. There are several innovative techniques that are being considered, but regulatory support and funding is needed to sustain these efforts. You can learn about innovative methods to control mosquitoes at <https://www.mvcac.org/vectors-and-public-health/innovative-technologies/>.