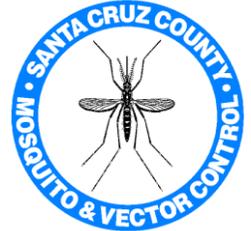




County of Santa Cruz



HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY

POST OFFICE BOX 962, 1080 Emeline Ave., SANTA CRUZ, CA 95061-0962
TELEPHONE: (831) 454-4000 FAX: (831) 454-4488 TDD: (831) 454-4123

OFFICE OF THE AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER MOSQUITO AND VECTOR CONTROL CSA 53

640 Capitola Road, Santa Cruz, California 95062
(831) 454-2590 Fax (831) 464-9161 Internet www.agdept.com

Press Release

For Release: Immediately

Contact: Lisa B. Hernandez, MD, MPH
Paul Binding

Date: October 16, 2015

Phone: (831) 454-4476
(831) 454-2590

State Public Health Officer Warns of Invasive Mosquitoes Detected in California

Yesterday, the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) issued a warning to Californians regarding the growing threat from invading, exotic mosquitoes: the Asian tiger mosquito (*Aedes albopictus*), and the Yellow fever mosquito (*Aedes aegypti*). In September 2015, *Aedes aegypti* was detected in San Bernardino and Riverside Counties, bringing the count to twelve California counties in which one or both *Aedes* species have been detected since 2013.

Here is what we know:

- These mosquitoes transmit diseases such as dengue fever and chikungunya, for which there are no vaccines.
- To date, there have been no reported cases of dengue fever and chikungunya contracted in California.
- These diseases are widespread in Latin America, and Californians traveling to these areas have become infected. Infected travelers can transmit the viruses to *Aedes* mosquitoes that bite them. This can lead to people becoming infected if they are then bitten by the mosquitoes carrying these diseases.
- *Aedes* are small, black and white mosquitoes that readily enter homes, primarily bite humans in daytime, mainly in urbanized areas, and breed in small containers.
- They hitchhike in vehicles as adults or are moved as eggs on outdoor water holding items such as fountains and plant pot saucers. They also breed in clogged roof gutters and yard drains.
- Draining standing water from yard containers and removing water-holding clutter from properties (sanitation) is key to reducing their breeding and spread.

- These invasive species have not yet been found in Santa Cruz County. Our County mosquito program has deployed detection traps, but first detections in other counties have been the result of reports from the public of daytime biting by aggressive black and white mosquitoes.
- Our County now has a Citizen Connect app (app stores or County website) to report mosquitoes biting, standing water and dead birds, as well as other types of public nuisances.
- The public can also write to the email address Pesthelp@agdept.com or call (831)454-2590.
- If you have travelled in Central America or the tropics and have a high fever, headache, muscle or body aches visit your doctor and report these symptoms to the County Health Department at (831)454-4114. hsacd@santacruzcounty.us

The Mosquito and Vector Control District encourages residents to:

- Empty yard containers of standing water;
- Wear long sleeved shirts, pants, socks with shoes and repellants when outside when mosquitoes are active;
- Place mosquitofish in ornamental ponds or unmaintained pools;
- Inform us of mosquito breeding situations such as unmaintained swimming pools or ponds;
- Inform us of biting mosquitoes at 831-454-2590;
- Report dead birds to the Department of Public Health - West Nile virus hotline, 1-877-WNV-BIRD, or website <http://www.westnile.ca.gov/>, as these reports can help locate West Nile virus activity.

Santa Cruz County Mosquito and Vector Control District

<http://www.agdept.com/AgriculturalCommissioner/MosquitoAbatementVectorControl.aspx>

Here is a link to the Department of Public Health Press Release: <http://www.cdph.ca.gov/Pages/NR15-075.aspx>