

Mosquito & Vector Control



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Zika Virus Information and Prevention



Although there are no reported cases of Zika virus in San Bernardino County, the Department of Public Health's Division of Environmental Health Services (DEHS), the Communicable Disease Section and Public Health Laboratory are working together to ensure suspected Zika cases are investigated and addressed appropriately.

The Zika virus is primarily transmitted to people by the *Aedes aegypti* and *Aedes albopictus* mosquitoes, the same mosquitoes that can transmit dengue and chikungunya viruses. According to the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), these mosquitoes are not native to California, but have been identified in [12 California counties](#), including San Bernardino

County; however, the risk of transmission in California is still low.

The CDPH and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have issued guidance for pregnant women recommending they avoid travel to Zika-affected countries. Pregnant women who cannot avoid travel to these countries should talk to their health care provider and take steps to avoid mosquito bites.

Most people infected with Zika virus will not develop symptoms. If symptoms do develop, they are usually mild and include fever, joint pain, rash, and eye redness. If you have recently returned from an affected country and have these symptoms within two weeks, or any other symptoms following your return, please contact your medical provider and tell them where you traveled. While there is no specific treatment for Zika virus disease, the best recommendations are supportive care, rest, fluids and fever relief.

Residents can still take precautions to limit breeding areas

- **Drain or Dump** – Remove all standing water around your property where mosquitos lay eggs such as birdbaths, old tires, pet watering dishes, buckets, or even clogged gutters.
- **Clean and scrub** any container with stored water to remove possible eggs.
- **Dress** – Wear shoes, socks, long pants and long-sleeved shirts when you are outdoors to avoid mosquito bites.
- **DEET** – Apply insect repellent containing, DEET, PICARDIN, IR3535, or oil of lemon eucalyptus according to manufacturer's directions.
- **Doors** – Make sure doors and windows have tight-fitting screens. Repair or replace screens that have tears or holes to prevent mosquitos from entering your home.

More information concerning the Zika virus can be found on the CDC webpage at <http://www.cdc.gov/zika/index.html>

If you notice these small black and white mosquitoes in or around your home, please contact the County of San Bernardino Department of Public Health, DEHS Mosquito and Vector Control Program (MVCP) at (800) 442-2283 or visit our [website](#). For more information, visit the [CDPH website](#).

Day Biting Mosquitoes

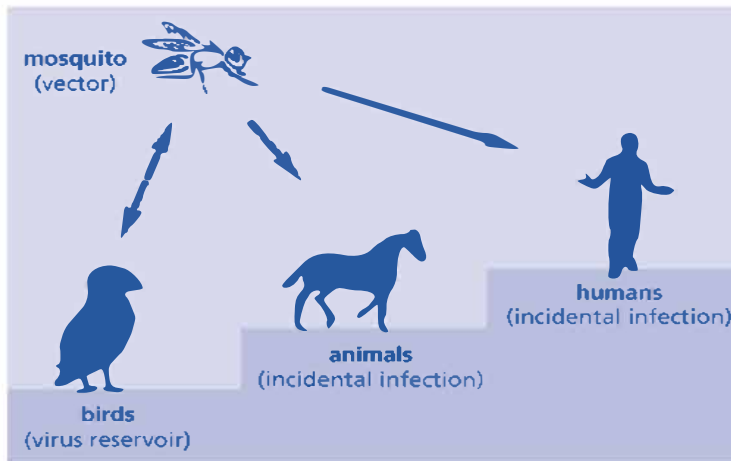
Two non-native species of mosquitoes have been found in California: the Asian Tiger mosquito (*Aedes albopictus*) and the Yellow Fever mosquito (*Aedes aegypti*). The Asian Tiger mosquito and the Yellow Fever mosquito bite primarily during the day, both indoors and outdoors.



The adults of both species are small (about a quarter-inch in size) dark brown or black, and have distinctive white markings around the body and legs. Both types of mosquitoes can carry West Nile virus, but can also spread diseases such as Zika virus, Dengue, Yellow Fever, and Chikungunya. Artificial or natural water-filled containers that are within or around the home are ideal habitats for these mosquitoes. Female mosquitoes can lay eggs in any open container holding as little as a teaspoon of water: plant saucers, cups, bird baths, and even old tires.

Both the Asian Tiger mosquito and the Yellow Fever mosquito were found in San Bernardino County in October 2015. If you or anyone you know is being bitten during the daytime or being bitten aggressively, please report it to your local vector control agency and save the specimen for identification, if possible. You can find your local vector control agency by entering your zip code here: [Zip code](#).

What is West Nile Virus?



West Nile virus (WNV) has been documented throughout the world and was first detected in North America in 1999, since then it has spread across the continental United States and Canada. WNV is an arthropod-borne virus commonly spread by infected mosquitoes. These mosquitoes become infected when they feed on infected birds, thereby spreading the virus to humans and other animals. Most people become infected with WNV from the bite of an infected mosquito. Signs and symptoms of WNV may cause febrile illness, encephalitis (inflammation of the brain) or meningitis (inflammation of the lining of the brain and spinal cord). Anyone who lives in an area with WNV that is present in mosquitoes can become infected. Presently, there are no vaccines for humans.

How can I Help Prevent West Nile Virus?

To aid in the prevention of WNV, it is very important that property owners remove all sources of stagnant water from their property. Residents with pools are urged to keep them properly maintained. Mosquitoes breed in very large numbers in stagnant water and green pools.

You can report dead birds to the California West Nile virus website at www.westnile.ca.gov. For more information, to report a green pool or a mosquito breeding source, contact the DEHS and the MVCP at (800) 442-2283 or visit our website at www.sbcounty.gov/dph/dehs.

Stay Connected to DEHS with Social Media

Follow our social media sites to get the latest news on food safety and foodborne illness prevention, mosquito and vector control, pool safety and drowning prevention, and more!

Environmental Health Today



Salud Ambiental Para Hoy



If you have any questions or comments, please contact Scott Stanley, Health Education Specialist II at 800-442-2283 or Scott.Stanley@dph.sbcounty.gov.

We appreciate the effort you make to protect the public's health in our County.