



Coachella Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District

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PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
September 12, 2016

INVASIVE Aedes MOSQUITOES FOUND IN CATHEDRAL CITY

This is the second area of detection of Aedes aegypti in the Coachella Valley

INDIO, CA, SEPTEMBER 12, 2016: The Coachella Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District has detected *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes in Cathedral City near the intersection of Candlewood Drive and Ramon Road. The species identification was confirmed on September 12, 2016 by District laboratory staff. The District will send out surveillance and control teams to the area over the next several days to evaluate the extent of the infestation by increasing surveillance traps and conducting door to door inspections in the area looking for and eliminating mosquito breeding sites. District staff just concluded an enhanced 4 week surveillance grid in another area of Cathedral City but no invasive *Aedes* were detected.

The *Aedes aegypti* mosquito is not native to California and has the potential to transmit deadly viruses including dengue, chikungunya, Zika, and yellow fever, viruses not currently transmitted in California by mosquitoes. This mosquito was first discovered in the Coachella Valley in May 2016 in the City of Coachella. District staff continue an intensive surveillance and control campaign in the City of Coachella. As a result of the work, no invasive *Aedes aegypti* have been detected for four weeks.

“This mosquito aggressively bites people during the day, prefers to breed around the home, and is a mosquito we do not want getting established here in the Coachella Valley,” said Jeremy Wittie, M.S., District General Manager. “Our professional surveillance and control staff will be evaluating the extent of this newly discovered infestation in Cathedral City and respond according to our established invasive *Aedes* response plan.”

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The public plays a critical role in helping to control the spread of this mosquito population. *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes are small (about ¼ inch), black and white, and bite aggressively during the day. They lay eggs just above the water line in small containers and vessels that hold water, such as dishes, potted plants, bird baths, ornamental fountains, tin cans, or discarded tires.

Prevent *Aedes aegypti* development in your yard:

- Inspect yards for standing water sources and drain water that may have collected under potted plants, in bird baths, discarded tires, and any other items that could collect water.
- Check your rain gutters and lawn drains to make sure they aren't holding water and debris.
- Clean and scrub bird baths and pet watering dishes weekly.
- Check and clean any new potted plant containers that you may bring home from areas that may have *Aedes aegypti*. Their eggs travel and are desiccant resistant.

Prevent mosquito bites:

- Apply repellents containing EPA registered ingredients such as DEET, picaridin, oil of lemon eucalyptus, or IR3535 to exposed skin and/or clothing (as directed on the product label).
- Wear long sleeve shirts, long pants, socks and shoes when mosquitoes are most active.
- Be sure window and door screens are in good repair to prevent mosquitoes from entering your home.

Residents experiencing mosquito bites during the day should report them immediately to the Coachella Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District. Travelers returning to the Coachella Valley from areas where dengue, chikungunya, or Zika viruses are transmitted should limit their exposure to mosquitoes and apply insect repellent for at least three weeks to avoid mosquito bites and reduce the potential of infecting local invasive *Aedes* mosquitoes. If you are experiencing symptoms after returning from an area where these viruses do occur, contact your health care provider immediately.

For more information, please go to the District website at www.cvmvcd.org or call (760) 342-8287. For more information on mosquito-borne disease transmission to humans in Riverside County visit www.rivco-diseasecontrol.org. More information on the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito can be found at: California Department of Public Health: <http://www.cdph.ca.gov/HealthInfo/discond/Pages/Aedes-albopictus-and-Aedes-aegypti-Mosquitoes.aspx>