

Vector Control District
County of Santa Clara
Consumer and Environmental Protection Agency
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SCCVector.org



Media Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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County of Santa Clara Vector Control District Prepares for Mosquito Season - Mosquito Breeding Leads To Increased Risks For West Nile Virus

SANTA CLARA COUNTY, CALIF. – Mosquito Awareness Week is April 21 – 27, 2019 and the County of Santa Clara's Vector Control District reminds the public to be diligent about inspecting and maintaining their properties for stagnant water to reduce the risk of mosquito-borne diseases.

Mosquitoes are more than just a nuisance - they can carry human diseases such as West Nile virus. West Nile virus can result in severe fever, significant neurological damage, and in some cases lead to human deaths. Mosquitoes cause hundreds of bird deaths and spread heartworm disease to dogs and cats. Pets should be checked for heartworm on a yearly basis and should be on heartworm medication year-round.

Mosquitoes can lay their eggs in sources of water as small as a bottle cap and thousands of mosquitoes can emerge from just one abandoned swimming pool. The County of Santa Clara Vector Control District highly recommends the public dump and drain any standing water in their yard, report neglected or abandoned swimming pools, and report dead bird sightings.

"Mosquitoes need water to complete their lifecycle. If everyone does their part to minimize their standing water, we can drastically reduce mosquito populations and the possibility of spreading diseases," said County of Santa Clara Vector Control District Manager, Nayer Zahiri. "Establishing regular maintenance can protect ourselves and our loved ones from the health threats posed by mosquitoes."

You can make your home or place of work a mosquito-free zone by:

- Draining, removing, or turning over anything that can hold water: flowerpots, planter bases, bird baths, toys, cans, rain gutters, pet dishes, buckets, old tires, and tarps
- Not allowing the level of water in your swimming pool to fall below the pump circulation area
- Requesting free mosquitofish for placement in neglected pools and ornamental ponds
- Reporting abandoned or neglected swimming pools
- Reporting mosquito activity
- Drilling holes in tire swings and other containers so they can drain
- Clearing roof gutters of debris
- Changing water in bird baths at least one time per week
- Placing tight fitting screens on doors and windows
- Keeping lids tight on rain water collection systems
- Encouraging neighbors to also eliminate standing water on their property

The public is encouraged to report dead bird sightings by contacting the state West Nile Virus Hotline at 1-877-WNV-BIRD (1-877-968-2473) or visiting their website www.westnile.ca.gov.

To report an abandoned swimming pool, mosquito activity, or to request free mosquitofish, informational material or an educational presentation, the public can contact the District office by calling (408) 918-4770 or filling out a service request online at SCCvector.org.

ABOUT THE COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA, CALIFORNIA

The County of Santa Clara government serves a diverse, multi-cultural population of 1.9 million residents in Santa Clara County, the sixth largest county in California. With a \$7 billion budget, more than 70 agencies/departments and nearly 22,000 employees, the County of Santa Clara plans for the needs of a dynamic community, offers quality services, and promotes a healthy, safe and prosperous community for all. The County provides essential services including public health and environmental protection; behavioral health and medical services through the County of Santa Clara Health System including Santa Clara Valley Medical Center (Hospital and Clinics), O'Connor Hospital and Saint Louise Regional Hospital; child and adult protection services; homelessness prevention and solutions; roads, parks and libraries; emergency response to disasters; protection of minority communities and those under threat; access to a fair criminal justice system, and scores of other services, particularly for those members of our community in the greatest need.

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