

County of Santa Clara  
Consumer and Environmental Protection Agency  
Department of Environmental Health  
Vector Control District  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **County of Santa Clara Prepares for Warm Weather and the Associated Increase in Mosquito and Tick Populations**

**SANTA CLARA COUNTY, CALIF.** – Warmer temperatures approaching this week may result in increased mosquito and tick activity in Santa Clara County. Officials from the Vector Control District remind the public to be diligent in inspecting and maintaining their properties, themselves and their pets to reduce the risk of mosquito and tick infestations.

The District requests the public eliminate all sources of standing water to discourage mosquito breeding and prevent the spread of West Nile Virus. Warming temperatures in the County are prompting the routine cycle of ticks locally. Immature ticks are at their most abundant during the summer months, and people need to be vigilant in checking for smaller ticks when active in wilderness areas. Unremoved ticks can lead to Lyme Disease and other tick-borne diseases.

Mosquitoes require only a small amount of stagnant water to breed. A container in a yard with as little as a quarter inch of water for one week provides mosquitoes an adequate environment to lay their eggs. To keep mosquito numbers down, businesses and residents should empty all containers filled with water, replace outdoor pet water bowls frequently, and dump water from potted plant saucers. Birdbaths should be emptied and refilled weekly.

The public can reduce the risk of mosquito bites by wearing long sleeves at dusk, using mosquito repellents when mosquitoes are active (dawn and dusk), and ensuring window and door screens are in good condition.

Tick bites can be avoided by wearing long sleeves and pants, using repellent sprays, and performing thorough body inspections after returning from the outdoors. This time of year, tiny light brown ticks are most abundant in leaf litter and on logs and rocks in the foothills and mountains.

“The prevention of vector-borne disease remains the District’s primary goal and its most important responsibility to the public,” said Dr. Nayer Zahiri, District Manager, County of Santa Clara Vector Control District. “There are many ways to minimize risks from mosquitoes and ticks through simple adjustments to daily routines.”

Birds can be carriers of mosquito-borne diseases, including West Nile Virus. Community members finding dead birds can assist the District by contacting the State’s West Nile Virus Hotline at 1-877-WNV-BIRD (1-877-968-2473) or visiting the website [www.westnile.ca.gov](http://www.westnile.ca.gov).

To report a complaint about mosquito activity (including day-biting mosquitoes) unmaintained swimming pools, or standing water in gutters and other possible receptacles, contact the District at (408) 918-4770 or go to [www.sccvector.org](http://www.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 fifth largest county in California. With a \$6.5 billion budget and more than 70 agencies/departments and more than 20,000 employees, the County of Santa Clara plans for the needs of a dynamic community, provides quality services, and promotes a healthy, safe and prosperous community for all. The County provides essential services including public health protection, environmental protection, medical services through Santa Clara Valley Medical Center (SCVMC), child and adult protection services, homelessness prevention and solutions, roads, park services, 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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