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**World Rabies Day - September 28**

**Rabies is vaccine preventable!**

Rabies is a virus generally transmitted through the bite or scratch of an infected animal. Rabies is fatal but is 100% preventable. You can follow the steps below to prevent rabies and rabies exposure.

- Vaccinate your pets! Visit your veterinarian on a regular basis and keep rabies vaccinations up to date.
- Stay away from wildlife, especially bats, raccoons, skunks, and foxes.
- Do not keep pet food or water out, as this could attract wildlife to your home and neighborhood.
- Seek medical attention after any potential exposure.


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1580 Berger Drive  
San Jose, CA 95112  
M-F 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Office: (408) 918-4770  
Fax: (408) 298-6356

vectorinfo@cep.sccgov.org  
www.sccvector.org
SERVICES AVAILABLE

The County of Santa Clara Vector Control District is committed to protecting the public from vectors capable of transmitting diseases or creating a nuisance.

The following services are available for free to the Santa Clara County public.

- Advice and/or control measures for mosquitoes
- Free mosquitofish for mosquito control
- Home inspections and advice for rodent infestations and wildlife activity
- Insect identification and confirmation letter
- Dead bird pick up for West Nile virus testing
- Yellowjacket and wasp control/nest removal in public areas and advice on control
- Consultations for bed bug abatement
- Educational presentations for K-12 students, tailored for individual classroom settings or school assemblies
- Educational presentations/booths for homeowner associations, organizations, businesses, civic groups, and other interested parties

"A VECTOR IS ANY ANIMAL OR INSECT THAT CAN TRANSMIT DISEASES TO ANIMALS OR PEOPLE."
The District has a robust mosquito prevention program in place, focusing on the use of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) to eliminate mosquitoes before they reach adulthood, and begin infecting people and animals with diseases. Year-round, staff inspect potential breeding sources like catch basins, marshes, creeks, ponds, neglected pools, and anything that holds standing water. The District uses biological controls such as mosquitofish and products approved by the Environmental Protection Agency that specifically target mosquito larvae and pupae.

5,530 catch basins were inspected for mosquito larvae and 253 were found to be breeding mosquitoes.

**Elements of IPM**

1. **Biological Control**
   - Is the use of natural predators to control pests

2. **Cultural Control**
   - is the practice that reduces pest reproduction, establishment, and survival

3. **Physical Control**
   - kills, blocks, or makes the environment unsuitable for a pest to survive

4. **Chemical Control**
   - is the use of pesticides

IPM programs provide the most effective way to manage pests, like mosquitoes. For more information on IPM, visit https://bit.ly/WhatIsIPM
Any thing that can hold standing water can be a breeding ground for mosquitoes. Even public areas like street curbs can hold standing water when it rains or grass is over watered. Our operations team checks areas like these throughout the county to eliminate early stage mosquitoes, before they can become biting adults.

Report any standing water you notice around your neighborhood, and our technicians will eliminate any possible mosquito breeding. You can let us know by submitting a service request online at www.sccvector.org, sending us an email at vectorinfo.org, or calling (408) 918-4770.

23 curbs were found to be holding standing water and 5 of them were breeding mosquitoes.
Mosquitoes pose a serious health risk to humans because they can transmit deadly diseases like West Nile virus. Different mosquito species can carry different diseases, but not all mosquitoes are infected. Mosquitoes only need a bottle cap of water to lay their eggs, now imagine how many can breed in a pool.

You can help prevent mosquito breeding in pools by following these precautions. Do not allow water levels in your swimming pool to fall below the pump circulation area, drain pool and keep it dry after rainfalls, or permanently remove pool after obtaining the proper permits. If there is work being done to the property/pool, contact the District to help control the mosquito breeding while the work is being done.

To report mosquito activity and abandoned/neglected swimming pools you can call the District office at (408) 918-4770 or submit a service request at www.sccvector.org.
152 locations, including ponds, creeks, and marshes were treated to eliminate mosquitoes out of 335 sites that were inspected.
Mosquito control - Mosquitofish

Mosquitofish (Gambusia affinis) are a small fish in the guppy family that are natural predators of mosquito larvae and pupae, making them an environmentally friendly alternative to mosquito control without the use of chemical insecticides. This method is referred to as biological control and is part of our Integrated pest management (IPM) program.

They are easily maintained and have a broad tolerance to a wide range of environmental conditions, require minimum care, and are compatible with most pond fish.

The District offers free mosquitofish to all of the public in Santa Clara County. They can be placed in artificial bodies of water like unmaintained pools, ponds, rain barrels, and water troughs. For more information on our mosquitofish program and mosquitofish availability, visit SCCVector.org/mosquitofish.

172 mosquitofish were stocked during August to prevent mosquito breeding in artificial bodies of water.
Just as the County’s Vector Control District monitors for diseases transmitted by infected mosquitoes, there are other districts in California that do the same. As of August 27, 2021 California had positive West Nile virus tests for the following categories: 26 human cases, 131 dead birds, 1,253 mosquito samples, 31 sentinel chickens, and 4 horses.

The 26 human cases come from 12 counties, including Shasta (1), Glenn (1), Butte (8), Solano (1), San Joaquin (1), Stanislaus (3), Merced (2), Fresno (3), Tulare (1), San Luis Obispo (2), Kern (2) and Los Angeles (1).

There have been two positive mosquito pools in Santa Clara County to date, and our team continues to actively inspect and control all mosquito breeding found in the County.

For more information on WNV activity in California, visit https://westnile.ca.gov.
DISEASE SURVEILLANCE

Dead Bird Program

West Nile virus (WNV) is transmitted to birds through the bite of infected mosquitoes and mosquitoes become infected by biting an infected bird. Birds like crows and jays are especially susceptible to WNV and can get sick and die from the virus. The District collects and tests dead birds that are reported by the public.

In August, dead birds were collected from San Jose, Palo Alto, Sunnyvale, Campbell, Gilroy, Morgan Hill, and Mountain View. You can report dead birds year-round, using the California Department of Public Health’s online form available at https://westnile.ca.gov.
Mosquito Trapping

Mosquito trapping is conducted throughout the entire county to monitor the abundance of mosquitoes and species present in the area. Mosquitoes are highly attracted to carbon dioxide and is one of the methods they use to find their host. The District uses carbon dioxide traps to attract and trap mosquitoes.

The top three mosquito species trapped in August included *Culex pipiens* (Northern house mosquito), *Culex tarsalis* (Western Encephalitis mosquito), and *Culiseta incidens* (Cool weather mosquito). To learn how you can help prevent mosquito bites and mosquito breeding around your home, visit www.sccvector.org
The District has a dedicated surveillance program for disease like West Nile virus, St. Louis encephalitis, and western equine encephalitis, which are transmitted through the bite of infected mosquitoes. The data collected through surveillance is used to predict locations that are more likely to have these disease transmitting mosquitoes. When a West Nile virus (WNV) mosquito is detected, the District initiates an adult mosquito control treatment to reduce the mosquito population in the area, which reduces the risk of a WNV human infection. WNV positive mosquitoes were detected in a small area within Gilroy, and a treatment was conducted on August 26, 2021.
WEST NILE VIRUS ACTIVITY

Adult Mosquito Control Treatments

The District has a dedicated team that inspects locations throughout the county for mosquito breeding, searches for new breeding sources, and eliminates any immature stages of mosquitoes found. The public can also assist in preventing the spread of West Nile virus by eliminating standing water around their home at least once a week, fixing leaky faucets, and keeping pools maintained.

These truck-mounted adult mosquito control treatments have regularly been conducted by the District since 2003 to successfully reduce WNV-transmitting mosquito populations. Mosquito treatments pose minimal risk to people, pets, animals, and the environment when applied by a licensed vector control professional following the label instructions.

All control materials used in our mosquito control program are approved by the Federal and State Environmental Protection Agencies and are widely used by Vector Control agencies throughout California. For additional information on our adult mosquito control treatments, visit our advisory webpage online at www.sccvector.org/mosquitotreatments.

Adult mosquito control treatment area within Santa Clara and Sunnyvale, conducted on August 30, 2021

Visit
HTTPS://BIT.LY/VCDMOSQUITOALERTS

SUBSCRIBE!
Did you know you could receive adult mosquito control treatment notifications directly to your inbox? Subscribe today!
PUBLIC SERVICE REQUESTS

August Overview

The District provides services to the public including home inspections for rodents and wildlife activity, mosquitofish deliveries, insect identification assistance, and other services. In August, the District received 314 service requests, with the highest being requests for rodent assistance. If you would like to request a service, please submit a request online at www.sccvector.org or call (408) 918-4770.

Service requests received during August
MISSION

To detect and minimize vector-borne diseases, abate mosquitoes, and assist the public in resolving problems that can cause disease, discomfort, or injury, to humans in Santa Clara County

COMMON HOUSE MOSQUITO - CULEX PIPIENS

FOLLOW US

@SCCVCD

CONTACT US

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