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Don't Let a Tick Make You Sick

Ticks are Active During Fall

Adult ticks are still active during fall. Don't let a tick ruin your time in nature. Follow these precautions to prevent tick bites while hiking or spending time outdoors.

- Wear light colored clothing
- Wear long pants, long socks, and long sleeves
- Stay in the center of trails
- Periodically check yourself, children, and pets for ticks
- Shower as soon as you get home

Visit www.sccvector.org/ticks to view our tick bite prevention checklist to know what to do before, during, and after being in tick habitat.
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 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. IPM is composed of four elements and provides the most effective way to manage pests. It includes the use of biological, cultural, physical, and chemical control. To learn more about IPM, visit https://bit.ly/WhatIsIPM.

Year-round, staff inspect potential mosquito 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 to eliminate the mosquito population.
Anything 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 overwatered. 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.

9 curbs were found to be holding standing water and 4 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. If mosquitoes only need a bottle cap of water to breed, one neglected swimming pool can breed thousands of mosquitoes.

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, submit a service request at www.sccvector.org, or email vectorinfo@cep.sccgov.org.

1 out of 2 inspected neglected pools were found to be breeding mosquitoes and were treated to eliminate immature mosquitoes.
58 bodies of water like ponds, marshes, and water troughs were treated to eliminate mosquitoes out of 189 inspected sites.
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 www.sccvector.org/mosquitofish.

10 mosquitofish were stocked during October 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 November 5, 2021 California had positive West Nile virus tests for the following categories: 98 human cases, 209 dead birds, 88 sentinel chickens, 13 horses, and 2,258 mosquito samples.

The 93 human cases come from 24 counties, including Shasta (3), Glenn (2), Butte (13), Placer (3), Yolo (1), El Dorado (1), Sacramento (4), Solano (2), Contra Costa (2), San Joaquin (5), Stanislaus (7), Santa Cruz (1), Merced (1), Madera (3), Fresno (8), Kings (5), Tulare (8), San Luis Obispo (2), Kern (3), Los Angeles (13), San Bernardino (1), Orange (2), Riverside (1), and San Diego (2) counties.

There have been 3 positive mosquito pools in Santa Clara County to date, and our team continues to actively inspect and control all immature mosquito stages found breeding in the county.

For more information on WNV activity in California, visit [https://westnile.ca.gov](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 October, dead birds were collected from Los Gatos, San Jose, and Saratoga. Dead bird pick-up services will resume in April 2022.
**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 (CO2) and is one of the methods they use to find their host. The District uses CO2 traps to attract and trap mosquitoes.

The top two mosquito species trapped in October 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/mosquitoes.
PUBLIC SERVICE REQUESTS

October 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 October, the District received 204 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 in October
In October, District staff attended the West Coast Rodent Academy, a two-day webinar series hosted by the University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources. Topics reviewed during the training included commensal rodent biology and behavior, health significance of commensal rodents, commensal rodent myths, and rodent management updates. Trainings like these allow our staff to learn about the latest research, resources, and technology available to control vectors and other pests.
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

FOLLOW US
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