

ORANGE COUNTY MOSQUITO AND VECTOR CONTROL DISTRICT

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National Mosquito Awareness Week: Mosquito Season Is Almost Here!

Garden Grove, Calif. – Every year, the beginning of mosquito season seems to coincide with National Mosquito Awareness Week – and for good reason.

Soaring summer temperatures along with substantial spring rainfall mean that residents need to take action to prevent a mosquito scourge.

The goal of National Mosquito Awareness Week, which runs from June 16–22, is to motivate residents to avoid mosquitoes and the diseases they can transmit.

“Mosquitoes are more than a nuisance. They can be deadly,” said Orange County Mosquito and Vector Control District (OCMVCD) Public Information Officer Brian Brannon. “That’s why our webpage encouraging residents to fight back against mosquitoes is mosquitoessuck.org.”

Invasive *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes – a.k.a. “ankle biters” – are now well-established in Orange County and have the potential to spread dengue, yellow fever, chikungunya, and Zika.

Here’s how to protect yourself and your family from mosquito bites:

- Eliminate all sources of standing water, including water in flowerpots, old tires, buckets, pet dishes, and trash cans.
- Install screens on doors and windows and keep them in good repair.
- Repair leaky faucets and broken sprinklers that can create standing water.
- Clean rain gutters.
- Report neglected swimming pools.
- Follow label instructions to apply insect repellent containing an EPA-registered active ingredient such as DEET, picaridin, oil of lemon eucalyptus, or IR3535.
- Wear long sleeves and pants, especially while outside during dawn and dusk when the mosquitoes that can spread West Nile virus are most active.

During National Mosquito Awareness Week, OCMVCD will share tips and educational content on mosquitoessuck.org and via social media. Residents can also participate in a social media contest. Prizes include tickets to an Angels game, the Discovery Cube and Santa Ana Zoo.

OCMVCD encourages residents to sign up to receive mosquito alerts. For more information, visit ocvector.org.

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