



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 4, 2021

***Aedes aegypti* Mosquito found in the City of Ojai**

VENTURA, California. – After conducting surveillance in response to a report of mosquitoes biting during the day, the Ventura County Environmental Health Division (Division) has detected the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito in the city of Ojai. Since September 2020, the invasive *Aedes aegypti* mosquito has been detected in Simi Valley, Thousand Oaks, Westlake Village, Fillmore, Piru, Ventura, Oak View, Oxnard, and now Ojai.

Aedes aegypti is not native to Ventura County. It is a small, aggressive day-biting mosquito that is now widespread in many California communities. This mosquito is capable of transmitting several viruses, including dengue, chikungunya, yellow fever and Zika. To date there has been no documented transmission of these diseases in California but due to the potential of these mosquitoes to transmit disease, as well as the presence of native mosquitoes that can carry West Nile virus and other arboviruses, care should be taken to avoid being bitten by or providing breeding places for mosquitoes.

Aedes aegypti lays its eggs just above the water line in small conveyances, containers, and vessels that hold water, such as yard drains, dishes under potted plants, bird baths, ornamental fountains, tin cans, animal watering containers or discarded tires. It's important for residents to look around their yard and inside their home and dump out even the smallest amount of standing water. Prevent runoff which accumulates in drains and gutters by avoiding overwatering and excessive use of water for other purposes. Cover yard drains with permeable landscape cloth or tight mesh screen and keep outlets clear. Clean and scrub bird baths and pet watering dishes weekly and dump water from overflow dishes under potted plants.

Residents can further reduce the chances of being bitten by *Aedes aegypti* or other mosquitoes by taking the following precautions: Make sure doors and windows have tight-fitting screens; when outdoors, wear protective clothing such as long sleeve shirts, long pants, socks, and shoes when mosquitoes are most active and apply an EPA approved and CDC recommended insect repellent, <https://www.cdc.gov/mosquitoes/mosquito-bites/prevent-mosquito-bites.html>. If water is stored in rain barrels or other containers, cover all openings with tight fitting lids or 1/16-inch fine mesh screen.

Residents experiencing mosquito bites during the day should report them immediately to the mosquito complaint HOTLINE at 805/658-4310. If you are sick with fever, headache, and joint or muscle pain after returning from an area where dengue, chikungunya, or Zika occurs, contact

your doctor and stay indoors as much as possible to avoid mosquito bites and help prevent possible spread of the virus.

Additional information on *Aedes aegypti* can be found at:

<https://www.vcrma.org/invasive-aedes-mosquitoes>

<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/Aedes-aegypti-and-Aedes-albopictus-mosquitoes.aspx>

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