



HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY
917 Oakdale Road, Modesto, CA 95355
Fax: (209) 558-8320
www.hsahealth.org

NUMBER: 20-32 DATE: August 18, 2020
FOR RELEASE: Immediate Health Services Agency Contact: Kamlesh Kaur
Phone: (209) 558-6833
Turlock MAD: David Heft
Phone: (209) 634-1234

Invasive *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes found in Turlock and Ceres

Stanislaus County, CA – The Turlock Mosquito Abatement District discovered *Aedes aegypti*, also known as the yellow fever mosquito, in the cities of Turlock and Ceres. This aggressive, daytime biting, mosquito is not native to California and was initially detected in Stanislaus County during 2019 in the cities of Newman and Modesto. *Aedes aegypti* has been detected in 16 other California counties to date.

The Turlock Mosquito Abatement District is currently assessing the extent of the *Aedes aegypti* populations in these cities. They will be conducting surveillance via traps and property inspections. Through inspections, District staff will help residents identify ways to prevent mosquito breeding on their property. Based on surveillance results, the District will conduct larval control and ultra- low volume adulticiding as necessary.

“This is a very challenging mosquito to control. It prefers to live in hard-to-reach suburban environments and bite people. They require very little water to complete their lifecycle, and their eggs are capable of surviving for months on the insides of containers before they come in contact with water” shared David Heft, General Manager at Turlock Mosquito Abatement District.

Aedes aegypti is capable of transmitting diseases such as dengue, chikungunya, yellow fever, and Zika. To date, these diseases have not been locally transmitted in California; however, they are periodically introduced by international travelers. If a large population of *Aedes aegypti* is established in the area, a single travel-associated case of one of these diseases could introduce the virus to local mosquitoes and Stanislaus County residents could be at risk of becoming infected.

Aedes aegypti is a small (approximate ¼ inch), black mosquito with bright white stripes on its legs. It is most common in urban and suburban habitats, and lays its eggs in small containers such as flower pots, plant saucers, pet bowls, buckets, and bird baths.

Protect your home from *Aedes* mosquitoes breeding by:

- Dumping out standing water. *Aedes aegypti* lay their eggs in containers that may hold water.
- Do not leave water out for more than 5 days. Change water frequently in flower vases and pet bowls.

-CONTINUED-

-MORE-

- Every week scrub out dog dishes into a trash can to remove eggs.
- Fill plant saucers with sand so pools of water do not collect.
- Remove any toys, buckets, containers or unused items from your yard that can fill with rain or sprinkler water.

Residents can reduce chances of being bitten by *Aedes aegypti* or other mosquitoes by taking the following precautions:

- Using repellents containing DEET, Picaridin, IR3535 or Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus according to the label
- Maintaining screens on doors and windows; these invasive *Aedes* can live and breed inside homes.

Report mosquito activity and mosquito breeding to Turlock Mosquito Abatement District at 209-634-1234 or visit turlockmosquito.org

Additional information on *Aedes aegypti* can be found at the California Department of Public Health webpage:

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