



Butte County Mosquito and Vector Control District

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Manager

For Immediate Release

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Subject: **FIRST DETECTION OF INVASIVE AEDES MOSQUITOE IN BUTTE COUNTY FOR FOURTH YEAR IN A ROW**

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YELLOW FEVER MOSQUITO DETECTED IN BUTTE COUNTY FOR FOURTH YEAR IN A ROW

The Butte County Mosquito and Vector Control District (District) detected an invasive (non-native) species of mosquito on Tuesday, May 30, 2023. The *Aedes aegypti*, commonly known as the yellow fever mosquito, has been detected in Butte County for four consecutive years. This is the first detection this year in Butte County and the sample was found in the Chico area. Unfortunately, based on the past three years the District expects to find this mosquito in other areas of the County as mosquito season goes on.

The District utilizes a science-based, data-driven approach to mosquito control. This Integrated Vector Management approach will include immature surveillance and control that includes door to door inspections, as well as adult surveillance and control, which will include ultra-low volume spraying, barrier treatments and a variety of live mosquito trapping. "The District is enhancing and expanding the District's comprehensive surveillance system to track this mosquito" said Amanda Bradford, the District's Entomologist.

Aedes aegypti have the potential to transmit viruses such as chikungunya, dengue, yellow fever, and Zika, that are not known to be transmitted by Butte County's native mosquitoes.

The public plays a critical role in helping to control the spread of this mosquito population. "*Aedes aegypti* love to breed in small water-holding containers and prefer being in and around our homes. A breeding ground for this mosquito can be as small as a water bottle cap. Eliminating all standing water regardless of size is essential to effective control," says Matt Ball.

Prevent *Aedes aegypti* development in your yard:

1. Inspect your yard for standing water sources and drain water that may have collected under potted plants, in bird baths, discarded tires, and any other items that could collect water;
2. Check your rain gutters and lawn drains to make sure they aren't holding water and debris;
3. Check and clean any new containers that you bring home that may contain water. *Aedes aegypti* eggs can remain viable under dry conditions for months.

As with all mosquito issues, native and non-native, the Butte County Mosquito and Vector Control District staff urges residents to take precautions to avoid mosquito bites by implementing the **7 Ds** of protection:

- **Drain** any standing water that may produce mosquitoes, this includes flowerpots, old tires, and buckets. Some species of mosquitoes can lay their eggs in very small sources of water, like a bottle cap.
- **Defend** yourself and your home by using an effective insect repellent and making sure screens on doors and windows are in good condition.
- **Dusk** or **Dawn**, avoid outside activities.
- **Dress** in long sleeves and pants when mosquitoes are active.
- **Door** and window screens should be in good working condition and free of holes and tears. This will prevent mosquitoes from entering your home.
- **District** personnel are available to address any mosquito problem you may be experiencing, to report water that may be breeding mosquitoes, and to answer any questions you may have.

For information about invasive mosquitoes in California-

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

For more information about the District's services, invasive mosquitoes, West Nile virus, or new emerging mosquito-borne diseases, contact the Butte County Mosquito and Vector Control District at (530) 533-6038 or visit

www.ButteMosquito.com