



Merced County Mosquito Abatement District
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Invasive *Aedes aegypti* Mosquitoes Found in Atwater, CA. Fifth City in Merced County.

MERCED, CA– The Merced County Mosquito Abatement District identified the invasive *Aedes aegypti* mosquito in Atwater, CA on August 14, 2020 (zip code 95301). This mosquito is capable of transmitting several human diseases, including dengue, chikungunya, yellow fever, and Zika. To date, no travel associated cases have been reported this year in Merced County.

So far, the cities of Merced, Le Grand, Los Banos, Winton and now Atwater have invasive *Aedes* mosquitoes. Merced County Mosquito Abatement continues surveillance efforts to detect *Aedes aegypti* in other locations within the community.

“Merced County Mosquito Abatement continues to identify new locations within Merced County containing invasive *Aedes* mosquitoes, it is imperative that citizens do their part in eliminating stagnant water sources in their backyards to reduce the spread of mosquito populations” states General Manager Rhiannon Jones.

Aedes aegypti is a small (approx. ¼ inch), black and white day-biting mosquito that prefers to feed on humans. It lives in urban habitats, and lays its eggs just above the water surface in small containers. They can complete their life cycle in as little as five (5) days when temperatures are hot. Please inspect your property and immediately discard any standing water. If you live in an urban residential area and are being bitten by mosquitoes during the day you are encouraged to contact Merced County Mosquito Abatement District.

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

- **Drain** standing water. Mosquitoes prefer to lay eggs in stagnant water.
- **Defend** yourself against mosquitoes using repellents containing DEET, Picaridin, IR3535 or Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus.
- Avoid being outdoors when mosquitoes are present, typically **Dawn** and **Dusk**.
- **Report neglected swimming pools** to the District. *Anonymous calls accepted.*

To report mosquito-breeding problem areas and request service, Merced County residents should contact Merced County Mosquito Abatement District at (209) 722-1527 [main], (800) 622-3242 [toll free], or www.mcmosquito.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>

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