



*Merced County Mosquito Abatement District*  
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### **Merced County Mosquito Abatement District Postpones Official Season Start Date to April 20, 2020 in Response to 'Stay in Place' Order Regarding COVID-19**

MERCED, CA– The Merced County Mosquito Abatement District (District) continues to take proactive measures to protect its staff and community to lessen the spread of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19).

The District will continue to keep its facilities closed to the public as a precautionary measure to help decrease the spread of COVID-19. Individual service requests and in-person property inspections will be postponed until further notice.

“Essential Full-Time employees are still performing necessary operations for the District. Seasonal and new hire employees will be asked to return on April 20<sup>th</sup>. It is a difficult decision, says General Manager Rhiannon Jones.” “Our Full-Time Mosquito Control Technicians will continue to monitor and treat for mosquitoes in public areas and we hope to be fully operational soon.”

The District will also continue to keep the public informed on their social media and website.

It is important to remember that COVID-19 is not transmitted through the bite of a mosquito. However, other viruses, such as WNV, can be. Therefore, residents are asked to be proactive in the coming weeks while they stay close to home by eliminating mosquito sources inside and around their property. The following steps will help reduce the threat of mosquito-transmitted diseases and mosquito breeding this coming season:

- **Dump** or **drain** standing water. Mosquitoes prefer to lay eggs in stagnant water.
- **Defend** yourself against mosquitoes by using EPA- recommended insect repellents.
- Avoid being outdoors when mosquitoes are present, typically during **Dawn** and **Dusk**.
- Ensure that swimming pools, spas, and ponds are properly maintained.

For more information on steps residents to take to prevent mosquito breeding, Merced County residents should contact Merced County Mosquito Abatement District at (209) 722-1527 [main], (800) 622-3242 [toll], or [www.mcmosquito.org](http://www.mcmosquito.org).

Merced County citizens wanting up to date information regarding COVID-19 should contact Merced County Public Health Department.

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