



**Merced County Mosquito Abatement District**  
3478 Beachwood Drive, P.O. Box 909, Merced CA 95341  
Phone: (209) 722-1527  
Toll: (800) 622-3242  
Fax: (209) 722-3051  
[www.mcmosquito.org](http://www.mcmosquito.org)

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### **Invasive *Aedes aegypti* Mosquitoes Found in Delhi, CA. Citizens Urged to Take Action.**

MERCED, CA– The Merced County Mosquito Abatement District identified the invasive *Aedes aegypti* mosquito in Delhi, CA on September 29, 2020 (zip code 95315). 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. However, this mosquito has now spread and established itself throughout most of Merced County.

“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. “These mosquitoes only live in urban habitats and will spread throughout the community if there is persistent water in people’s backyards. Most people don’t realize that these mosquitoes can lay eggs in small amounts of water, like a bottlecap full, and even complete its lifecycle inside peoples’ homes.”

*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.

The District will continue surveillance efforts as well as reducing mosquito populations via home inspections and ground treatments. While keeping social distancing in mind regarding COVID, the District’s main concern is public health regarding mosquitoes and mosquito borne diseases. General Manager Rhiannon Jones also states, “There has been a higher number of people calling in to report mosquito activity in their neighborhood, which has been great. Now more than ever before, citizens have to play a more active role in tipping and tossing out water.”

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](http://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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