

Orange County Mosquito and Vector Control District

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Mosquitoes: The Pests That Plague Our Summer Days and Nights

Garden Grove, CA – This month marks the launch of the "[Tip, Toss, Take Action](#)" campaign, a comprehensive effort aimed at reducing the spread of mosquito breeding and mosquito-borne illnesses. Orange County Mosquito and Vector Control District (OCMVCD) will launch the campaign during National Mosquito Control Awareness Week, which is celebrated June 18-24 throughout the country, to raise awareness about what residents can do to protect themselves from the world's deadliest animal, the mosquito.

The record amount of rain the County has experienced this winter created large amounts of stagnant water. While the warmer weather is drying up much of this standing water, invasive *Aedes* mosquitoes will lay their eggs in water sources as small as a bottle cap. *Aedes'* eggs can survive for years even if they dry up and will hatch when they come in contact with water again so it's important to dump and drain all standing water.

"Our goal with this year's campaign is to make it easy for people to take action against mosquitoes," says Heather Hyland, the Director of Communications for the District. "We believe that by providing simple, straightforward tips and resources, we can help prevent the spread of these diseases and protect our communities."

The "Tip, Toss, Take Action" campaign includes a range of educational materials, including videos, posters, and brochures, as well as community events and workshops. In addition, the campaign will also feature a social media presence, with daily tips and educational content being shared on various platforms.

The launch of this campaign is timely, as summer is quickly approaching, and mosquito populations are expected to surge. By taking action now, we can help prevent mosquito breeding, take charge of our yards and protect our communities.

For more information about the "Tip, Toss, Take Action" campaign and how you can get involved, please visit our website at ocvector.org

To prevent mosquito breeding, residents should:

- Tip out any standing water at least once a week
- Toss out any unused containers
- Clean and scrub bird baths and pet water bowls weekly
- Do not transport or share plant clippings rooted in water
- Drill holes or puncture containers to eliminate standing water

To prevent mosquito bites, take action, and follow these tips:

- Apply mosquito repellents to exposed skin before going outdoors; reapply as recommended.
- Wear repellent containing DEET®, Picaridin, IR3535, or oil of lemon eucalyptus.
- Close all unscreened doors and windows to prevent mosquitoes from entering your home or space; repair broken or damaged screens.
- Wear long-sleeved shirts and long pants and opt for lighter-colored clothing.

Residents are encouraged to sign up for District email notifications. For more information, visit www.ocvector.org.

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