

Orange County Mosquito and Vector Control District

For Immediate Release

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OCMVCD promotes California Mosquito Awareness Week by asking residents to tip, toss and take action to reduce mosquito breeding sources.

Garden Grove, CA. Recent COVID-19 restrictions have stressed the importance of public health and how it can impact lives, while mosquitoes cannot spread COVID-19, they can transmit other viruses. As we recognize California Mosquito Awareness Week, Orange County Mosquito and Vector Control District (OCMVCD) urges residents to consider the threat that mosquito-borne diseases can pose and tip, toss and take action against mosquito breeding.

The OCMVCD joins public health officials and cities across the state to promote California Mosquito Awareness Week, April 19-25. As part of the state's Mosquito Week activities and to promote mosquito control as an essential service in public health:

- OCMVCD will release a series of educational public service announcements on how residents can take an active role in mosquito control.
- The District's social media pages will highlight mosquito prevention tips and tricks, quizzes and challenges to encourage residents to Tip, Toss and Take Action.
- The District's social media pages will be participating in fun giveaways with residents.
- OCMVCD is teaming up with local agencies to help encourage shared responsibility and resident action to prevent mosquitoes.

"Orange County residents need to remember that there are mosquito-borne diseases that can impact their lives. Mosquitoes are not only a nuisance; they can transmit diseases such as West Nile virus. It is essential residents eliminate mosquito breeding in and around their home to help protect the public health of their families and community." said Rick Howard, District Manager. "California Mosquito Awareness Week is an opportunity for the community to increase awareness. We all need to take charge of our yards and help prevent the spread of mosquito-borne diseases."

Residents should take the following precautions to help reduce the chances of being bit by mosquitoes: Tip, Toss and Take Action

- Dump and drain any containers filled with water at least once a week
- Clean and scrub bird baths and pet water bowls weekly
- Dump water from potted plant saucers

- Do not transport or share plant clippings rooted in water
- Drill a hole or puncture containers to eliminate standing water

To prevent mosquito bites, the District offers the following 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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