

West Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District

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MEDIA RELEASE

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West Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District

Invasive Mosquito Alert: *Aedes albopictus* Detected in Montclair

For Immediate Release:
October 2, 2017

The West Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District has detected the presence of *Aedes albopictus*, commonly known as the Asian tiger mosquito, in Montclair. This detection occurred during routine surveillance near Kingsley and Ramona Ave.

Aedes albopictus are small, black and white mosquitoes that will aggressively pursue people during the day and the evening. They prefer to lay eggs in man-made receptacles such as tires, fountains, potted plants, and birdbaths. Asian tiger mosquitoes lay their eggs singly on the sides of containers, usually just above the water line, and when the eggs meet with water, they activate and hatch. They are not solely outdoors either, they will lay eggs in containers inside homes as well.

Aedes albopictus are an important species because they are known transmitters of West Nile virus, Dengue, and Zika virus. They have been spreading rapidly throughout Southern California, and have the potential to be a serious vector in our region.

Residents can help combat this invasive mosquito by dumping all standing water. Items such as birdbaths, trash cans, flowerpots need to be drained of any residual water and scrubbed. Pet water dishes should have the water changed frequently and cleaned to remove algae or bacteria buildup. Pools and spas should be in operating condition or completely drained of water.

To prevent mosquito bites, ensure that window screens are in good repair, and to use an effective mosquito repellent when outdoors. The Centers for Disease Control recommends using a repellent containing Picaridin, DEET, Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus, or IR3535.

Residents are also urged to report green pools, standing water, or day-biting mosquito problems to the District at 909-635-0307 or online at www.wvmvcd.org.