



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Ahead of FIFA World Cup Events, California Mosquito Districts Urge Residents and Visitors to Prevent Mosquito Bites

During National Mosquito Control Awareness Week (June 21–27, 2026) and FIFA World Cup activities (June 11-July 19, 2026) across California, mosquito districts are urging the public to prevent mosquito bites.

SACRAMENTO, CA – As the world converges on California for FIFA World Cup events, and as the country observes National Mosquito Control Awareness Week, California’s local mosquito and vector control districts are urging residents and visitors to prevent mosquito bites and control mosquitoes. Invasive *Aedes* mosquitoes — capable of transmitting dengue, Zika, chikungunya, and yellow fever — continue to spread across the state and are now established in 28 counties. Many districts are responding to this increasing public health threat by deploying an innovative tool called Sterile Insect Technique (SIT). SIT is effective in reducing invasive *Aedes* mosquitoes, which are typically difficult to control, but this innovative technology can be very costly.

With the risk of mosquito-borne diseases rising as these mosquitoes continue to spread, California mosquito and vector control agencies are working to protect both residents and visitors attending large international events and communities across the state. Districts are turning to innovative approaches like SIT to reduce mosquito populations and lower public health risks statewide.

“Sterile Insect Technique has proven to be one of the most promising and environmentally responsible technologies available to suppress invasive mosquito populations, reduce pesticide use, and help prevent mosquito-borne disease transmission,” said Dr. Paula Macedo, president of the Mosquito and Vector Control Association of California and District Manager of the Contra Costa Mosquito and Vector Control District. “However, the cost of implementing and scaling these programs remains out of reach for many districts without additional support and investment at the local, state, and federal levels.”

SIT works by releasing non-biting, sterile male mosquitoes into targeted communities with extensive infestations of invasive mosquitoes. When female mosquitoes mate with sterile males, no viable offspring are produced, causing mosquito populations to decline over time. Several California mosquito and vector control districts are already deploying SIT programs to

help limit the spread of invasive *Aedes* mosquito populations, which are difficult to control because they develop in small containers and live close to people in residential neighborhoods.

Without additional funding, many California districts may not be able to expand or sustain these programs at the scale necessary to effectively slow the spread of invasive *Aedes* mosquitoes. As these mosquitoes continue to establish themselves in more communities across the state, mosquito control agencies warn that California faces increasing risks of locally transmitted diseases like dengue, Zika, and chikungunya, especially when large events like the FIFA World Cup events are taking place in areas where there have been annual invasive *Aedes* detections.

“Mosquito and vector control districts are leading the way by using cutting-edge technologies, including the Sterile Insect Technique, to protect residents from mosquito-borne pathogens such as West Nile virus and to reduce the spread of invasive mosquitoes, which are often nuisance species that disrupt outdoor activities. Continued, sustainable investment in vector control programs and public support are essential to ensure these programs are proactive, not reactive, because our priority is to protect public health,” said Dr. Isik Unlu, President of the [American Mosquito Control Association](#). “The need for additional funding for mosquito and vector control programs extends across the country.”

Residents and visitors alike should protect themselves from mosquito bites both at home and while traveling. EPA-registered mosquito repellent is easy to use, just make sure to use a repellent with an active ingredient like picaridin or DEET. Registered ingredients are safe to use as directed and work to prevent bites and diseases that mosquitoes can spread.

Residents and visitors can protect themselves by:

- Eliminating standing water around homes and yards, including water found in flowerpots, buckets, pet dishes, toys, old tires, and clogged gutters.
- Reporting neglected swimming pools and aggressive day-biting mosquitoes to their local mosquito and vector control district.
- Using EPA-registered mosquito repellents when spending time outdoors.
- Wearing long sleeves and pants when possible to reduce mosquito bites.
- Making sure window and door screens are properly fitted and in good condition.

To learn more, please visit the [MVCAC website](#) or the [California Department of Public Health Mosquitoes and Mosquito-Borne Diseases webpage](#). For information on the FIFA World Cup events, visit the [CDC's website](#).

About MVCAC

The [Mosquito and Vector Control Association of California](#) (MVCAC) is the statewide voice for mosquito and vector control professionals. The association provides public health information, expertise, mosquito and vector-borne disease surveillance, innovative research, professional training, effective legislative and regulatory advocacy on behalf of California public agencies.

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