



SHASTA MOSQUITO AND VECTOR CONTROL DISTRICT

19200 Latona Road, Anderson, CA 96007
Telephone: (530) 365-3768 Fax: (530) 365-0305
Web: shastamosquito.org

Contact: Peter Bonkrude, District Manager
Ph# 530-365-3768

E-mail: contact@shastamosquito.org

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 20th, 2020

District Staff Encourages Residents to Protect Themselves from Mosquito-Borne Diseases

Recent emphasis on public health is an excellent reminder to residents to protect themselves from viruses transmitted through the bite of a mosquito.

To raise awareness and educate Californians about the threat mosquitoes and vectors pose to our community, and to encourage them to take measures to reduce mosquito populations and protect themselves, the Shasta Mosquito and Vector Control District observes April 19th-25nd, 2020 as Mosquito and Vector Control Awareness Week.

Spring rains have resulted in areas of standing water, giving mosquitoes opportunity to breed. Mosquitoes need as little as a cap full of water in order to lay their eggs and can develop from egg to adult in just 7 days.

“With many Californians at home right now under stay-at-home orders, it’s a good time to check around properties and yards for mosquito sources,” said Peter Bonkrude, District Manager. “Children who are home from school can help check yards and learn about the importance of dumping and draining all standing water. Checking flowerpots, buckets, and other backyard sources is an easy and very important activity.”

According to the [World Health Organization](http://WorldHealthOrganization.org), “The new coronavirus [COVID-19] CANNOT be transmitted through mosquito bites.” Mosquitoes can, however, transmit other viruses, like West Nile virus, which can cause debilitating cases of meningitis, encephalitis, and even death.

In 2019, there were 225 human West Nile virus disease cases from 27 counties in California, including six human deaths. In Shasta County, West Nile virus has continued to impact residents’ lives every year since 2004.

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Our Mission: “To protect the public’s health from vector-borne disease and nuisance, through a comprehensive mosquito and vector control program focused on innovation, experience and efficiency”.

For these reasons, we continue to recommend the public follow the 4 D's of mosquito bite prevention:

- **D**rain any standing water that may produce mosquitoes, this includes flowerpots, old tires, and buckets. Some species of mosquitoes can lay their eggs in very small sources of water, like a bottle cap.
- **D**efend yourself and your home by using an effective insect repellent and making sure screens on doors and windows are in good condition.
- **D**usk or Dawn, avoid outside activities.
- **D**ress in long sleeves and pants when mosquitoes are active.

For more information about SMVCD's services, West Nile virus, or new emerging mosquito-borne diseases, contact the Shasta Mosquito and Vector Control District at (530) 365-3768 or visit www.ShastaMosquito.org.

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