

ORANGE COUNTY MOSQUITO AND VECTOR CONTROL DISTRICT

For Immediate Release:
April 17, 2026



Contact:

Brian Brannon, Public Information Officer
Phone: (714) 477-3587
E-mail: bbrannon@ocvector.org

Together We Fight! California Mosquito Awareness Week

Garden Grove, Calif. – With rising temperatures indicating that mosquito season is upon us, Orange County Mosquito and Vector Control District (OCMVCD) encourages residents to work together to keep families, friends, and neighbors safe during California Mosquito Awareness Week from April 19th to 25th and throughout mosquito season, which runs through October.

“Weekly trapping by OCMVCD continues to indicate an abundance of mosquitoes well above the five-year average, making it more important than ever for Orange County residents to dump and drain standing water in and around their homes,” OCMVCD spokesperson Brian Brannon said. “Once again, our rallying cry is ‘Together We Fight’ because if there’s one thing that we should all agree on, it’s that mosquitoes suck and they can easily fly from one yard to bite the neighbors in another.”

Recognized as the world’s deadliest animal by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, mosquitoes kill more people than any other creature on earth by spreading diseases such as West Nile virus, dengue, Zika, chikungunya, and St. Louis encephalitis.

In California, the most prevalent and serious mosquito-borne disease is West Nile virus, for which there is no human vaccine. West Nile virus can cause debilitating cases of meningitis, encephalitis, and even death. There have been more than 8,000 human cases and over 400 deaths reported since West Nile virus first appeared in California in 2003.

Last year, Orange County reported four cases of West Nile virus, none of which were fatal.

Follow these steps to help prevent mosquitoes:

- Eliminate all sources of standing water, including water in flowerpots, old tires, buckets, pet dishes, and trash cans.
- Install screens on doors and windows and keep them in good repair.
- Repair leaky faucets and broken sprinklers that can create standing water.
- Clean rain gutters.
- Report neglected swimming pools.
- Follow label instructions to apply insect repellent containing an EPA-registered active ingredient such as DEET, picaridin, oil of lemon eucalyptus, or IR3535.
- Wear long sleeves and pants, especially while outside during dawn and dusk when the mosquitoes that can spread West Nile virus are most active.

Sign up to receive mosquito alerts and get more information by visiting www.ocvector.org.

###