

DISTRICT MISSION

The Greater Los Angeles County Vector Control District is a local government and public health service agency. Its mission is to: reduce populations of Board-mandated vectors below nuisance levels; prevent human infection associated with mosquito-transmitted diseases; guard against human infection and discomfort associated with other vector-transmitted diseases; and prevent the loss of property values and commercial enterprise as the result of vector occurrence and activity.

Call The District For Free Assistance!

If you are bothered by mosquitoes, a State certified Vector Control Specialist will locate the source and treat the area if necessary.

If you have an ornamental pond, out-of-order swimming pool, or animal watering trough, you may pick up free mosquitofish at the District.



Greater Los Angeles County Vector Control District
Formed January 15, 1952
Serving the communities of:

| | | | |
|--------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Artesia | Diamond Bar | Long Beach | San Fernando |
| Bell | Downey | Los Angeles City | San Marino |
| Bellflower | Gardena | Los Angeles Co. | Santa Clarita |
| Bell Gardens | Glendale | Lynwood | Santa Fe Springs |
| Burbank | Hawaiian Gardens | Maywood | Signal Hill |
| Carson | Huntington Park | Montebello | South El Monte |
| Cerritos | La Habra Heights | Norwalk | South Gate |
| Commerce | Lakewood | Paramount | Whittier |
| Cudahy | La Mirada | Pico Rivera | |

District Headquarters
12545 Florence Ave.
Santa Fe Springs, CA
90670
(562) 944-9656

Sylmar Branch
16320 Foothill Blvd.
Sylmar, CA 91342
(818) 364-9589

www.glacvcd.org

Are You Raising Mosquitoes In Your Backyard?



Besides being annoying pests, mosquitoes transmit diseases to humans and animals. You can help control mosquitoes by removing stagnant water from your property.



**GREATER LOS ANGELES COUNTY
VECTOR CONTROL DISTRICT**

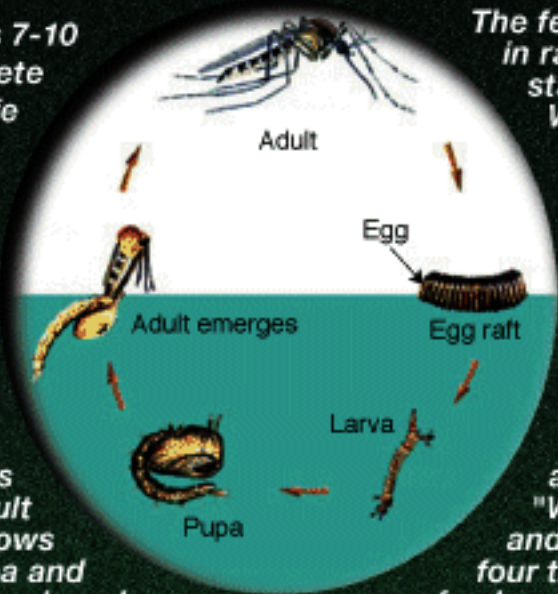
MOSQUITOES ARE VECTORS

A vector is any animal or insect capable of transmitting a disease or is considered a public health nuisance.

Mosquito Life Cycle

It only takes 7-10 days to complete an entire life cycle.

Pupae, called "Tumblers" somersault through the water. They do not eat in this stage. The adult mosquito grows inside the pupa and when fully developed split the pupal skin and emerges



The female lays eggs in rafts on top of stagnant water. Within a few days, the eggs hatch into larvae.

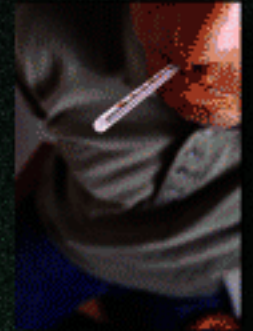
Larvae or "wigglers" come to the surface to breathe through a siphon tube. "Wigglers" grow and shed their skin four times. Larvae feed on organic matter.

These viruses are most prevalent from May to October when mosquitoes are most abundant.

Symptoms

The majority of people and animals that are infected have a mild illness or show no symptoms. Signs and symptoms of these diseases are similar but vary in severity and rate of progress. Symptoms range from mild flu-like illness, and in a few cases can progress to encephalitis (inflammation of the brain).

Encephalitis can affect anyone. Infants and the elderly are at greatest risk because their immune systems are either in a state of development or decline. For West Nile virus, persons over the age of 50 are at greatest risk.



Medical Treatment

Vaccines are not available to protect humans from mosquito-borne viruses, although a vaccine is available for horses. Supportive therapy is used to preserve life until the body's natural defenses can take over.



Did You Know?

- Mosquitoes are responsible for more human deaths than any other living creature.
- All mosquitoes must have water to complete their life cycle.
- Mosquitoes do not develop in grass or shrubbery, although, flying adults frequently rest in these areas during daylight hours.
- Only the female mosquito bites to obtain a blood meal. The male mosquito feeds only on plant juices.
- The female mosquito may live as long as three weeks during the summer or many months over the winter in order to lay her eggs the following spring.

Personal Protection Against Mosquitoes

- Minimize time spent outdoors between dusk and dawn when mosquitoes are most active.
- Wear loose, light colored protective clothing (long-sleeved shirt and long pants) when outdoors.
- Consider the use of mosquito repellent as needed according to the product label.
- Use mosquito netting when sleeping outdoors or in an unscreened structure and to protect small babies when outdoors.
- Make sure that doors and windows have tight fitting screens.

**YOU CAN HELP CONTROL MOSQUITOES
BY REMOVING STAGNANT WATER FROM
THESE COMMON BACKYARD SOURCES.**

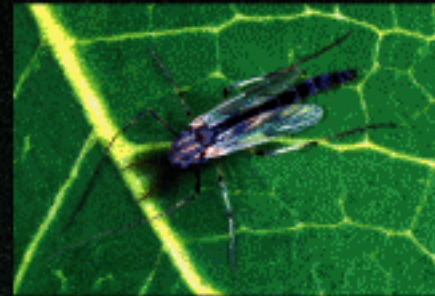


Possible mosquito sources include:

- Pools
- Neglected hot tubs
- Ponds
- Clogged rain gutters
- Rain Barrels
- Tires
- Storm drains
- Holes in trees
- Watering troughs
- Tarps
- Tires
- Bird Baths
- Leaking garden equipment
- Watering troughs
- Stationary vehicles
- Barbecues
- Water gardens

Anything that will hold water for more than a few days.

INSECTS MISTAKEN FOR MOSQUITOES



Midge

- About the same size as a mosquito
- Cannot bite
- Develops in mud on bottoms of lakes, ponds, spreading basins, and flood control channels
- A problem from spring to fall

Body length approximately 1/2 in.
Actual size



Common Crane Fly

- Much larger than a mosquito
- Cannot bite
- Does not eat mosquitoes
- Develops in moist soil or water
- A problem from early spring and fall

Body length 1/2 to 3/4 in.
Actual size



Black Fly

- Smaller than a mosquito
- Painful itchy bite, but does not transmit any diseases in California
- Breeds in flowing streams and rivers
- A problem in spring and summer

Body length 1/8 to 1/4 in.
Actual size



Fungus Gnat

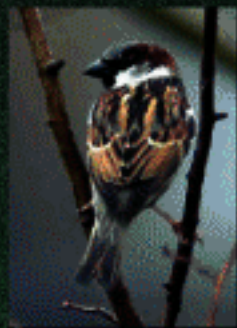
- About the same size as mosquito
- Cannot bite
- Develops in fungus or moist decaying vegetation
- A problem from winter to spring

Body length 1/8 to 3/8 in.
Actual size

HEALTH RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH MOSQUITOES IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY

- *St. Louis encephalitis*: humans
- *Western Equine encephalitis*: humans and horses
- *West Nile virus*: humans, horses, birds, and other animals
- *Malaria*: humans
- *Heartworm*: dogs and cats
- *Allergic reactions*

TRANSMISSION CYCLE OF ENCEPHALITIS AND WEST NILE VIRUS



Bird to insect



Insect to bird

Insect Vector: Mosquitoes

Mosquito-borne viruses are transmitted to people and animals by infected mosquitoes. Only certain species of mosquitoes carry viruses. Infected birds are then fed on by local mosquitoes that can pass the virus through future bites.

Reservoir Host: Birds

Viruses are carried into the area by wild birds that are infected elsewhere. These birds show no symptoms.



Accidental Hosts: People and Animals

The virus in "dead-end" carriers is not sufficient to be transmitted back to the mosquito, thereby ending the transmission cycle.



PROTECTING YOUR HEALTH

The District's goal is not to just continually suppress mosquito populations, but to prevent their emergence, nuisance and transmission of diseases. This is accomplished through District programs which consist of vector prevention, surveillance, control and education.

Prevention

The use of mosquitofish prevents mosquitoes from becoming a problem and is referred to as biological control. The District provides free mosquitofish to district residents for placement on their property only.



Surveillance

The surveillance program serves as an early warning system in the detection of mosquito-borne viruses that can infect people and animals. Testing for the presence of virus/pathogens in mosquitoes, sentinel chickens, and wild birds helps identify the disease transmission cycle before human cases occur.



Control

Long term mosquito prevention is accomplished by incorporating Integrated Vector Management, which uses a combination of applied field techniques involving physical, chemical, and biological control methods. The application of safe, environmentally sensitive, host specific materials are used to control mosquitoes.



Education

The community outreach program creates awareness of District activities, stressing the importance of vector control and actively engages adults and children in assisting the District's mission.

