

WHAT CAN I DO TO HELP ELIMINATE MOSQUITO BREEDING SOURCES?

- Change** water in pet dishes and bird baths at least once a week.
- Dump** out water from buckets, pots, tires, garbage cans, and other outdoor containers.
- Remove** vegetation and debris from the edges of ponds.
- Report** neglected swimming pools.

WHAT CAN I DO TO AVOID BEING BITTEN?

- Apply** a repellent that contains DEET, picaridin, or Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus. Make sure you follow label directions!
- Wear** protective clothing, such as long-sleeved shirts and pants.
- Check** and repair all screens and screen doors to keep mosquitoes out of your house.
- Minimize** outdoor activities at dawn and dusk when mosquitoes are most active.



SERVICES

The Placer Mosquito and Vector Control District provides year-round services to the residents of Placer County through our comprehensive Integrated Pest Management program, which includes surveillance, control and public education. District technicians promptly respond to requests for service, conduct on-site inspections and provide information about vectors including but not limited to mosquitoes, ticks, yellowjackets and rats. For inquiries or to request service, please call the District toll free at (888) 768-2343, or visit us online at www.placermosquito.org to join the spray notification list.

FIGHT THE BITE

by practicing the District's **3Ds** of protection:

- 1. DRAIN** any standing water that may produce mosquitoes.
- 2. DEFEND** yourself against mosquitoes by using an effective insect repellent, such as DEET, Picaridin or Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus. Make sure you follow label directions!
- 3.** Contact the **DISTRICT** for help. We are here to serve you. Call us at (888) 768-2343, or visit us online at www.placermosquito.org.

Your tax dollars hard at work

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ABOUT MOSQUITOES IN PLACER COUNTY



Protecting Public Health since 2001



Placer County's rich, diverse landscape from the bright city lights of the valley floor to the rolling foothills to the magnificent snow-capped mountains of the Sierra Nevada, appeals to people from all walks of life. This diverse landscape also provides attractive habitat for a wide variety of mosquitoes and other vectors including ticks and yellowjackets. Be diligent and protect yourself and your family while outdoors and enjoying all that Placer County has to offer.

The Placer Mosquito and Vector Control District strives to reduce mosquito and other vector populations, promote awareness of vectors and vector-borne diseases, and decrease health risks to residents in Placer County.

Since 2001, the District has worked diligently to:

- **educate and inform** the public about current and emerging mosquito and vector-borne diseases
- **inspect, reduce and eliminate** mosquito breeding sources in Placer County
- **employ Integrated Pest Management** strategies and techniques to reduce vector populations and protect public health from mosquitoes and mosquito-borne diseases
- **use public funds efficiently** and responsibly to achieve the District's mission

What is a vector?

A vector is an insect or any other animal capable of transmitting a disease or causing harm to people or animals.



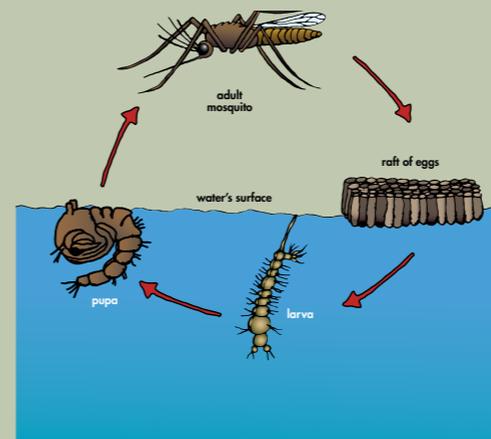
THE FACTS ABOUT MOSQUITOES

Mosquitoes can transmit a variety of diseases and parasites to people and animals in Placer County, including West Nile virus, Western equine encephalomyelitis virus, dog heartworm, St. Louis encephalitis virus and malaria.

Adult female mosquitoes acquire disease by feeding on infected animals such as birds or rodents. Bites from infected mosquitoes transmit diseases to people and animals. There are approximately 3,500 species of mosquitoes worldwide, with 53 different species in California and over 30 species in Placer County.

Mosquitoes need water to develop

The illustration below shows the mosquito life cycle from egg to larva to pupa to adult. The first three stages of the mosquito life cycle are spent in the water. You can prevent mosquitoes from developing by removing or draining standing water that support this life cycle. In warm temperatures, mosquitoes can develop in as little as three days!



Egg stage

An adult female mosquito can lay approximately 100-400 eggs in clusters called rafts, which float on the surface of the water, or eggs may be laid singly on the surface of the water or the water's edge (depending on the species of mosquito). Within 2-3 days the eggs hatch into larvae.



Larval stage

Larvae can be found close to the surface of the water where they breathe and feed. Larvae are found in a wide variety of

standing water sources including neglected swimming pools, rice fields, irrigated pastures, ditches, storm drains, household containers, tree holes, ponds, horse troughs, and even discarded tires. Larvae shed their skin four times during the next several days or weeks, finally changing into a pupa.



Pupal stage

In the pupal stage, the mosquito grows inside of a cocoon-like shell. Once fully developed, the pupal skin splits and the mosquito emerges as an adult.



Adult stage

The newly emerged adult mosquito rests on the surface of the water until it is strong enough to fly. Female mosquitoes

require a blood meal to lay eggs. Male mosquitoes do not feed on blood. Female mosquitoes are attracted by heat and carbon dioxide to hosts such as humans, mammals, and birds. Diseases are transmitted when female mosquitoes feed on an infected host and then feed on an uninfected host.