



August, 2021

## The Valley Buzz

### MANAGER'S MESSAGE:



As of August 24, the District has detected three mosquito samples positive for West Nile virus.

For the state of California, as of August 20, there have been 1,253 West Nile virus (WNV) positive mosquito samples from 24 counties. There have been 19 human cases of West Nile virus in the state, and two of these were

fatal.

As we head into the Labor Day weekend, please remember to wear your mosquito repellent when outdoors.

For status updates on West Nile Virus in the District, please connect with us on Facebook or Twitter, or go to [www.wvmvcd.org](http://www.wvmvcd.org).

*Dr. Michelle Brown*

### TECHNICIAN'S TIPS:

#### Mosquito Control Rocks!

Some of the trickiest spots in backyards where mosquitoes can lay their eggs in our planter pots and yard drains. Mosquitoes will lay their eggs in the saucers of potted plants where water accumulates and in the shallow spots and boxes of underground drains.

We have a trick up our sleeve though! Using small rocks like pea gravel or aquarium rocks to combat mosquitoes is an easy, quick way to keep

mosquito breeding down in these spots. Adding aquarium rocks to saucers and pea gravel in yard drain boxes displace any water that can build up and stagnate.

What other spots in your backyard could you use gravel or rocks to knock out breeding?



Adding some pebbles like this can help you stop mosquito breeding!

## FROM OUR LABORATORY:

### Waiting with "Baited breath"!

One question we get quite often is, "How do these mosquitoes keep finding me!?" Well, it's kind of complicated, but one of the first things that happens in the pest quest is that mosquitoes smell carbon dioxide coming from our breath and skin!

That's right, the female mosquitoes that are ready to take in blood to make their eggs can smell our carbon dioxide that we exhale. When they sense carbon dioxide, they begin flying toward the area where they can smell higher concentrations of the gas. So, unless you want to hold your breath, make sure your wearing repellent when your outside!



A little repellent is a lot easier than holding your breath!!

# OUTREACHING OUT TO YOU!

## Back to school – Need Science Project Ideas?

The kids are back from break and will be needing some ideas for science projects. Why not consider mosquitoes? The great thing about studying mosquitoes is, just like the pesky critter, it is very adaptable!

From elementary school to a collegiate thesis, the life and biology of mosquitoes is a fascinating subject (of course this is coming from a somewhat biased writer!).

Elementary schoolers can investigate the mosquito life cycle, high schoolers can study the effects of water temperature on the development of larvae, and college students can look at pesticide resistance, pathways of disease transmission, and many more! Below are some resources for you to help our next generation of scientists!

For Elementary Schoolers:

<https://www.pestworldforkids.org/pest-guide/mosquitoes/> - Pest world for kids

<https://placerlearninglab.org/> - Placer Mosquito and Vector Control District

For Middle/High Schoolers:

<https://www.mosquito.org/> - American Mosquito Control Association

<https://www.cdc.gov/mosquitoes/index.html> - Center for Disease Control

<https://www.mvcac.org/> - Mosquito and Vector Control Association of California

For College Students:

<https://www.sove.org/> - Society for Vector Ecology

<https://isid.org/> - International Society for Infectious Diseases



Help a young vector ecologist start off right!

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While we face many challenges in public health, we are confident that with your continued support, cooperation, and friendship, we can continue to protect our residents in this vast and ever-changing landscape.

*Thank you for supporting us over the years!*

Contact Us

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Connect with us

