



# COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ

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## NEWS RELEASE



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### **INVASIVE *Aedes aegypti* MOSQUITO IDENTIFIED IN BOULDER CREEK**

Santa Cruz County Mosquito & Vector Control has detected *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes near downtown Boulder Creek. It is the second confirmed finding in Santa Cruz County, following a 2022 identification in South County.

Vector Control is working aggressively to identify the scope of the infestation and prevent its spread, including inspections of potential breeding areas. Although not endemic to California, *Aedes aegypti* has the potential to transmit dengue, chikungunya, Zika, and yellow fever. In 2024, local dengue cases were identified in Los Angeles and San Diego counties.

*Aedes aegypti* is an aggressive, day-biting mosquito. They are about ¼ inch in size and black and white. The Boulder Creek finding has been confirmed by the California Department of Public Health.

Vector Control is initiating a full response to understand the scope of the issue and prevent the spread of *Aedes aegypti* in the community. Following the 2022 Watsonville finding, Vector Control staff was able to prevent the spread, and the mosquito has not been detected within that area since first being identified. Vector Control staff has launched a similar effort with the discovery in Boulder Creek.

Expanded surveillance efforts include deploying specialized traps to specifically target *Aedes aegypti* adults, and water sampling for mosquito larvae surrounding the downtown Boulder Creek area. Additionally, staff are conducting door-to-door inspections of properties for standing water and other mosquito breeding areas.

The public can play a critical role in helping to control the spread of *Aedes aegypti*. Recent rain and warm temperatures create ideal conditions for mosquito development. *Aedes aegypti* lays its eggs just above the water line in small containers and vessels that hold water, such as dishes under potted plants, bird baths and

feeders, ornamental fountains, tin cans, children's toys, or discarded tires. Residents should dump out even the smallest amount of standing water on their properties. Since eggs stick to surfaces, it is important to clean and scrub bird baths and pet watering dishes weekly and dump excess water from the overflow trays under potted plants.

Santa Cruz County Mosquito & Vector Control reminds people to do the following to reduce the chances of being bitten by mosquitoes:

- Apply repellents containing EPA registered ingredients such as DEET, picaridin, oil of lemon eucalyptus, or IR3535 to exposed skin and/or clothing (as directed on the product label).
- Wear long sleeve shirts, long pants, socks and shoes when mosquitoes are most active.
- Be sure window and door screens are in good repair to prevent mosquitoes from entering your home. Residents experiencing mosquito bites during the day should report them immediately to Santa Cruz County Mosquito & Vector Control online at [mvc.santacruzcountyca.gov](http://mvc.santacruzcountyca.gov) via "Submit a Service Request" or by calling (831) 454-2590.

If you are sick with fever, headache, and joint or muscle pain after returning from an area where dengue, chikungunya, or Zika occurs, contact your doctor and stay indoors as much as possible to avoid mosquito bites and help prevent possible spread of the virus.

Additional information on *Aedes aegypti* can be found at:

- Santa Cruz County Mosquito & Vector Control Website:  
<https://mvc.santacruzcountyca.gov/Learn/InvasiveAedes.aspx>
- California Department of Public Health:  
<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/Aedes-aegypti-and-Aedes-albopictusmosquitoes.aspx>