

**County of Santa Clara
Consumer and Environmental Protection Agency
Department of Environmental Health
Vector Control District**

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Media Advisory

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Friday, June 19, 2020**

Positive Tests Confirm West Nile Virus Mosquitoes

Targeted treatment scheduled for June 23 in limited areas in City of Santa Clara

SANTA CLARA COUNTY, CALIF. – The County of Santa Clara Vector Control District has confirmed West Nile virus (WNV) positive tests in adult mosquitoes collected from portions of the 95054, 95051, and 95050 zip code areas that include parts of the City of Santa Clara. As a result, a truck-mounted adult mosquito control treatment has been scheduled in those areas to prevent human cases of WNV. Weather permitting, the ground operations are scheduled for approximately **10 p.m. on June 23, 2020** and will conclude a few hours later. The targeted area is largely industrial and commercial, with approximately 10 percent being residential. The District is adhering to all recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the County of Santa Clara Public Health Department regarding the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) and will be conducting the treatment in accordance to those guidelines.

Door hangers notifying the public of the scheduled mosquito treatment will be placed in neighborhoods beginning Friday, June 19. Notice is also being sent directly to the public in the treatment zip codes through AlertSCC, and to those who subscribe to Nextdoor neighborhood networks. General notice is being provided on various social media platforms, including Facebook (County of Santa Clara Consumer and Environmental Protection Agency), Twitter (@SCCVCD), and the SCCVector app.

Vector Control staff will be available to answer any questions from the public, Monday – Friday, at the dedicated phone number (408) 282-3114, from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Questions can also be submitted by email to vectorinfo@cep.sccgov.org.

The specific details of the operational areas are:

Treatment date: Tuesday, June 23, around 10:00 p.m., for approximately three hours

Supervisorial District: 4

City: Santa Clara

Centered at: Scott Boulevard and Walsh Avenue

Bordered by:

- **North** – Montague Express Way and Walsh Avenue
- **East** – De La Cruz Boulevard and W. Trimble Road
- **South** – Warburton Avenue
- **West** – Bowers Avenue

Treatment Zip codes: 95054, 95051, and 95050

Map at: <https://arccg.is/1GbvH9>

During the adult mosquito control treatment operations, there is no need to relocate. Those who wish to minimize exposure for family members or pets may close windows and remain inside during the

scheduled time period, which typically lasts three hours. Individuals who have chemical sensitivities may want to consult their physicians. All control treatments utilized are approved by the Federal and State Environmental Protection Agencies and are widely used by Vector Control agencies throughout California.

The District proactively conducts disease surveillance, and routinely inspects and treats areas such as catch basins, curbs, marshes and other public areas for mosquito breeding, to reduce mosquito populations and decrease the possibility of vector borne diseases, such as West Nile virus.

Health Effects of West Nile Virus

Since the arrival of West Nile virus to California in 2003, 7,024 people across the state have contracted the disease; 309 of those cases were fatal. In 2019, there were six human WNV-related fatalities; 2015 was a record year for fatalities in the state with 53 deaths.

WNV infection does not cause symptoms in most people. However, for some individuals it can cause fever, headache, body aches and, in severe cases, significant neurological damage or death. Adults older than 50 years and individuals with certain chronic medical conditions such as diabetes, high blood pressure, cancer, and kidney disease are most at risk for serious complications.

The public can play an important role in preventing the spread of West Nile virus. The following are some key prevention measures.

On your property:

- DRAIN or DUMP standing water weekly. Mosquitoes lay eggs in stagnant water.
- Drain, remove or turn over anything that can hold water, such as flowerpots, planter bases, bird baths, toys, cans, rain gutters, pet dishes, buckets, and old tires. Fix leaky water faucets and sprinklers.
- Screens on doors and windows should be tight-fitting and in good condition.
- Do not let your swimming pool water fall below the pump circulation area. Free mosquitofish placement can be requested online at SCCVector.org for placement in neglected pools or ornamental ponds.

Outdoor Activities:

- Limit outdoor activities during DUSK and DAWN to prevent mosquito bites. Those are the times when the mosquitoes that transmit WNV are most active.
- If you need to go outside in an area where mosquitoes are active:
 - Dress in long sleeve shirts and long pants, preferably in light colors.
 - Apply insect repellent approved by the Environmental Protection Agency, following label instructions.

Contact the County of Santa Clara Vector Control District if you are being bothered by mosquitoes or know of a potential mosquito-breeding source.

For free assistance with mosquito control, WNV, or other vectors, residents can contact the District office at **(408) 918-4770** or fill out a service request online at SCCVector.org.

ABOUT THE COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA

The County of Santa Clara government serves a diverse, multi-cultural population of 1.9 million residents in Santa Clara County, California, making it more populous than 14 states in the U.S. The County provides essential services to its residents, including public health protection, environmental stewardship, medical services through the County of Santa Clara Health System, child and adult protection services, homelessness prevention and solutions, roads, park services, libraries, emergency response to disasters, protection of minority communities and those under threat, access to a fair criminal justice system, and many other public benefits.

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ADULT MOSQUITO TREATMENT – June 23, 2020

