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## Mosquitoes: The Pests That Plague Our Summer Days and Nights

GARDEN GROVE, Calif. – This month, Orange County Mosquito and Vector Control District (OCMVCD) will launch FIGHT BACK OC, a comprehensive campaign to reduce mosquito breeding and the spread of mosquito-borne illnesses throughout the county. The launch will coincide with [National Mosquito Control Awareness Week](#) (June 18-24), which aims to teach residents how they can protect themselves from the world's deadliest animal.

The record amount of rainfall the county experienced this winter has created large amounts of stagnant water. While much of it has evaporated, invasive Aedes mosquitoes' eggs can hatch in a water source as small as a bottle cap. These eggs can also survive for years to hatch when they come into contact with water again, so it is important to dump and drain all standing water.

"Our goal is to show how easy it is to take action against mosquitoes," OCMVCD Director of Communications Heather Hyland said. "We believe that providing simple, straightforward tips and resources is the best way to reduce mosquito breeding and protect our communities."

FIGHT BACK OC will feature a range of educational materials, such as videos, posters, and brochures, as well as community events, speaking engagements, and workshops. The campaign will also include social media with daily tips and educational content shared across various platforms.

With summer quickly approaching, mosquito populations are expected to surge. By acting now, Orange County residents can eliminate breeding sources, take charge of their yards and protect their communities.

For more information about FIGHT BACK OC and how you can get involved, please visit [www.ocvector.org](http://www.ocvector.org).

Residents must take charge of their yard to prevent mosquitoes from breeding on their property:

- Tip out all standing water at least once a week.
- Toss out any unused containers.
- Clean and scrub bird baths and pet water bowls weekly.
- Do not transport or share plant clippings rooted in water.
- Drill holes or puncture containers to eliminate standing water.

To prevent mosquito bites, take action with the following tips:

- Apply mosquito repellent to exposed skin before going outdoors; reapply as recommended.
- Wear repellent containing DEET, Picaridin, IR3535, or oil of lemon eucalyptus.
- Close all unscreened doors and windows to prevent mosquitoes from entering your home or space; repair broken or damaged screens.
- Wear long-sleeved shirts and long pants and opt for lighter-colored clothing.

To sign up for email notifications, please visit [www.ocvector.org](http://www.ocvector.org).

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