

# NEW INVASIVE MOSQUITO ALERT

## Aedes Mosquitoes



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Three new public health significant species are making Southern California their home: the **Asian tiger** (*Aedes albopictus*), **yellow fever** (*Aedes aegypti*), and **Australian backyard** (*Aedes notoscriptus*) mosquitoes. These mosquitoes adapt well to urban environments and can thrive when introduced.

## Characteristics

- **Small:** Small with black and white stripes
- **Daytime Biter:** Aggressive daytime biter; but can also bite at night (most established mosquitoes in the area bite primarily at dawn and dusk only)
- **Breeds:** Breeding can occur both indoors and outdoors; primarily in plant saucers and other water filled containers
- **Eggs:** Eggs are laid above the water line in containers holding as little as a teaspoon of water. The eggs can survive dry conditions up to two (2) years and develop when water fills the container and finally touches the eggs.

## Breeding Sites

- Flower pots and vases
- Plants that can hold water (bamboo or bromeliads)
- Plant saucers
- Buckets
- Clogged rain gutters
- Rain barrels
- Old tires
- Ponds
- Birdbaths
- Fountains
- Tree holes
- Tin cans



## Diseases Transmitted by Asian Tiger and Yellow Fever Mosquitoes

- Dengue fever
- Chikungunya
- Yellow fever
- Zika virus

These diseases normally occur in tropical and sub-tropical areas of the world, including Mexico, Central and S. America, Southeast Asia, and Africa. While the risk of local transmission of these viruses is extremely low in Southern California, infected travelers can bring these viruses into the area. Aedes mosquitoes become infected when they bite a person already infected with the virus. Infected mosquitoes can then spread the virus to other people through bites.

## Dengue (a.k.a. “breakbone fever”)

- High fever, headache, eye pain, severe muscle and joint pain
- Severe form can lead to internal bleeding, shock and death

## Chikungunya

- Debilitating joint / muscle pain (can last months)
- Fever

## Yellow Fever

- Nausea, vomiting and fever
- Severe disease can lead to jaundice, internal bleeding, shock, and death

## Zika Virus

- Most infected people will not show symptoms
- Symptoms are usually mild and include fever, rash and eye redness
- See next page for more important details about the Zika virus

## Heartworm Disease (*Ae. notoscriptus*)

Heartworm disease is a potentially fatal disease in dogs and cats. Mosquitoes transmit roundworms which can live in the heart, lungs and blood vessels. Always consult your veterinarian for treatment and prevention of heartworm disease.

# ZIKA VIRUS

The Zika virus, a mosquito-borne illness that may be linked to serious birth defects, was first identified in Uganda in 1947. Previous outbreaks were confined to a few small areas in Africa, Asia and the Pacific Islands, but the disease is now spreading rapidly in Latin America and the Caribbean.

## Transmission



Primarily through bite of infected Aedes mosquito – which also spreads dengue and yellow fever. Evidence suggests that virus may also be transmitted by blood transfusion, sexual contact, or from mother to fetus during pregnancy, but these instances are rare.

## Symptoms



Include fever, rash, joint pain, red eyes (conjunctivitis) and headache. About one in five people thought to develop symptoms – illness often mild, lasting from two to seven days. Most people fully recover without serious complications. Deaths are rare.

## Treatment



No vaccine or antiviral medicine available. Patients advised to rest and drink plenty of fluids. Prevention entails avoiding contact with mosquitoes. Health officials recommend covering up, using insect repellent and

keeping windows closed or screened.



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## Microcephaly

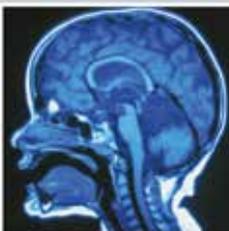


Zika Virus is suspected of causing brain defects in babies, resulting in reduced head size. Affected children may face learning disabilities or death if brain is very underdeveloped.

Microcephaly cases in

Brazil have surged from average of 163 per year to almost 4,000 since October 2015.

## Guillain-Barre Syndrome



Rare disorder in which the body's immune system attacks part of the nervous system, causing weakness and sometimes paralysis. Most patients recover, but syndrome can be deadly. Cases linked to Zika have

been reported in Brazil and French Polynesia.

## Travel Advice



The CDC recommends that pregnant women postpone travel to areas where Zika is spreading locally. [Go to www.cdc.gov/zika](http://www.cdc.gov/zika) for latest information.