

Butte County Mosquito & Vector Control District

Since 1948

2nd Quarter, 2026

Newsletter

MOSQUITO SURVEILLANCE

Mosquito numbers are rising across Butte County, and our team is actively working to protect public health. The District continues monitoring for West Nile virus and other mosquito-borne illnesses using mosquito traps, sentinel chickens, mosquito pool testing, and testing of deceased wild birds. We have also detected the return of *Aedes aegypti*, an invasive mosquito capable of spreading diseases such as yellow fever, dengue, and Zika virus. At this time, there is no local transmission of these viruses in Butte County. Our fully staffed surveillance and control crews are actively treating mosquito breeding sources with targeted larvicide applications to help reduce mosquito populations and nuisance activity throughout the county.



Identifying Mosquitoes

Larval Dipping

Adult Mosquitoes

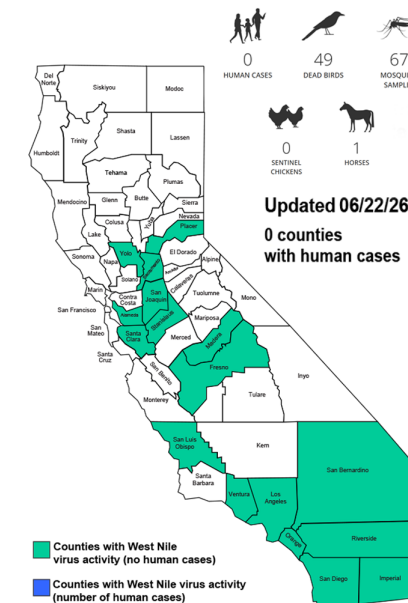
Urban
Storm Drains, Catch Basins, Swimming Pools, Containers, Tires, Gutters, Storm Water Channels

Rural
Roadside Ditches, Pastures, Sewer Ponds, Sumps, Canal Leakage, Containers, Tires, Tree-Holes

Agricultural
Rice, Wetlands, Orchard Runoff, Ditches, Pump Leaks, Containers, Tires, Wildlife Area Ponds

WEST NILE VIRUS ACTIVITY

WestNile.ca.gov
VECTOR-BORNE DISEASE SECTION • CA DEPT OF PUBLIC HEALTH



As of June 23rd, 2026, West Nile virus (WNV) has not been found in Butte County using any of our surveillance techniques.

WNV has been found in 17 Californian counties. Many in southern California and near the bay area.

AERIAL OPERATIONS

As of June 23rd, 2026, aerial operations has treated 7,085 acres of rice and 2,454 acres of wetlands. The District's aircraft play a vital role in protecting public health across Butte County by providing rapid, large-scale mosquito control treatments in areas that are difficult to access by ground. These aerial operations allow crews to quickly target mosquito populations in wetlands, rice fields, and other breeding habitats, helping reduce the risk of mosquito-borne diseases such as West Nile virus.

7,085 acres
Rice

2,454 acres
Wetlands



Butte County Mosquito and Vector Control District
5117 Larkin Road
Oroville, CA. 95965

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Butte County Mosquito and Vector Control District is to protect public health by preventing and reducing mosquito-borne disease, minimizing nuisance mosquito populations, and combating the spread of diseases associated with ticks, fleas, and other vectors. The District accomplishes this through science-based, environmentally responsible control strategies, proactive surveillance, and community education and engagement.

MOSQUITOFISH

Requested by phone or website
Free mosquitofish available for pickup at these locations:



Chico

BCMVC Substation
444 Otterson Dr.
(530) 533-6038
C Bar D Feeds
68 Transit Way
(530) 342-5361

Magnolia Gift & Garden
1367 East Ave.
(530) 894-5410
Wilbur's Feed
139 Meyers St.
(530) 895-0569

Oroville

BCMVC
5117 Larkin Rd.
(530) 533-6038
Ace Hardware
1845 Mitchell Ave.
(530) 533-5600

Gridley

Ace Hardware
1626 State Hwy 99
(530) 846-3625

Concow

The Pine's Yankee Hill
11300 Miller Flat Rd.
(530) 534-1265

Butte Valley

Earthworm Soil Factory
2552 Clark Rd.
(530) 895-9676

Hamilton City

Fire Department
4120 1st St.
(530) 826-3355

Paradise

Déjà Vu Gardens
5424 Foster Rd.
(530) 877-7341

Foothill Mill & Lumber

1698 Wagstaff Rd.
(530) 877-3395

CONTACT INFORMATION

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MOSQUITO LIFE CYCLE

There are more than 3,500 species of mosquitoes around the world.

In California, we have about 50 species and of those, only a few are considered public health threats due to their potential to transmit mosquito-borne diseases to humans. People who have been bitten by a mosquito infected with viruses such as West Nile, Saint Louis Encephalitis, Dengue, and Zika may develop life-threatening or life-altering diseases. For the District and residents of Butte County to effectively reduce mosquito populations and the chance of getting a mosquito-borne disease, it is important to understand the habits and behaviors of the different mosquito species.

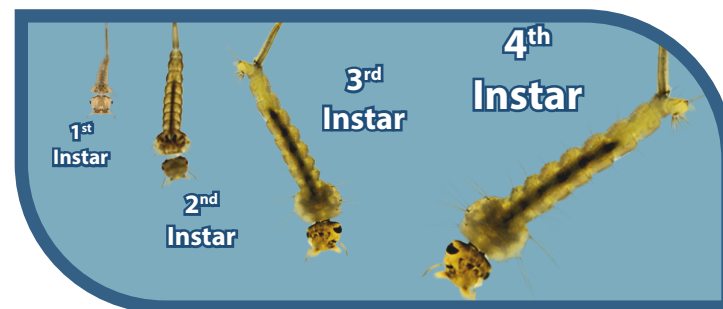
All mosquitoes must have water to complete their lifecycle.

This water can range in quality and it can be in any container imaginable. The mosquito goes through four separate and distinct stages of its lifecycle: egg, larva, pupa, and adult. Some species can go through their entire life cycle in as little as four days.

Egg

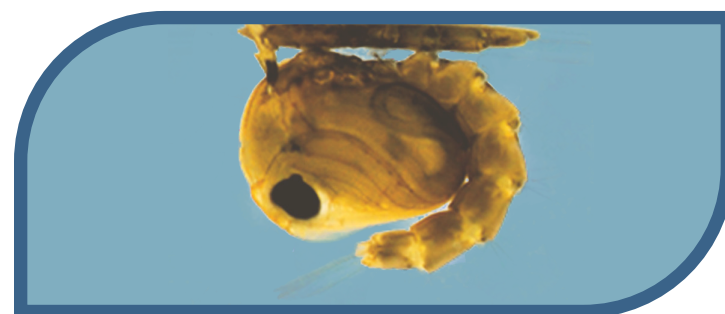
Eggs are laid on or near water or where water will be. They may be laid one at a time or stuck together in rafts of 100-300 eggs. Most eggs hatch into larvae within 48 hours of coming into contact with water.

Eggs vary in form between different species.



Larva

Larvae live in water and breathe air from the surface. Larvae feed on micro-organisms and organic matter in the water. They shed their skin four times growing larger after each molt. The stages between molts are called instars. When the 4th instar larva molts it becomes a pupa.



Pupa

Mosquito pupae also float at the water surface and breathe air. When disturbed, they dive in a tumbling motion and then float back to the surface. The pupal stage does not eat food. This is the time the mosquito turns into an adult. It takes two days before the adult is fully developed.



Adult

Newly emerged adults rest on the surface of the water for a short time to allow itself to dry before taking flight. Female mosquitoes feed to get a sufficient blood meal to develop eggs. Male mosquitoes feed only on plant nectar. The life span of the adult mosquito usually depends on several factors: species, temperature, humidity, gender, and time of year. Males live shorter lives.

PUBLIC EDUCATION CAMPAIGN

The District's ongoing public education campaign has been off to a strong start with several successful events already completed. The Home & Garden Show, Gold Nugget Craft Faire, Kids Free Fishing Day, and Red Suspenders Days were particularly well-received. These events featured an impressive insect exhibit, showcasing mosquitofish and mosquito larvae, along with complimentary items such as fly and mosquito swatters, tick identification cards, recyclable shopping bags, and mosquito repellent.

The District has partnered with Lamar Advertising on a billboard, bus, and bus stop shelter campaign. This year's slogan is:

"Don't Let Small Bugs Become Big Problems"



Moreover, the District has partnered with Action News Now to produce a 30-second animated public service announcement and to feature the "Skeeter Meter" buzz activity during the weather report, both aimed at raising mosquito awareness and enhancing outreach efforts.

Lastly, the District will continue its outreach through radio and print public service announcements. Radio ads are currently airing on Deer Creek Broadcasting and Results Radio stations, while detailed information on mosquito prevention measures and contact details for the District will be featured in local printed materials.

