

For Immediate Release:
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MULTI-AGENCY MEDIA ALERT

Asian Tiger Mosquito Re-emerges this Mosquito Season in Los Angeles County

WHO:

The Greater Los Angeles County Vector Control District (GLACVCD)
The San Gabriel Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District (SGVMVCD)

WHAT:

Last week, both the GLACVCD and SGVMVCD collected their first confirmed samples of Asian tiger mosquitoes (*Aedes albopictus*) for 2012 in El Monte and South El Monte. The agencies will collaborate and conduct neighborhood outreach and control campaigns in the areas to raise awareness, provide immediate, localized larval and adult control, and evaluate the extent of the infestation of this aggressive, day-time biting mosquito.

WHEN:

Inspection and localized control efforts are on-going throughout the infested neighborhoods. Residents are asked to cooperate and provide agency inspectors access to property.

WHERE:

GLACVCD Jurisdiction: 1600 block of Millet Avenue in South El Monte, CA
SGVMVCD Jurisdiction: 3300 block of Tyler Avenue in El Monte, CA

San Gabriel Valley, CA—Vector ecologists from the Greater Los Angeles County Vector Control District (GLACVCD) have positively identified samples of adult mosquitoes and eggs collected from the 1600 block of Millet Avenue in South El Monte as those of the aggressive, daytime biting Asian tiger mosquitoes (*Aedes albopictus*). Concurrently, the San Gabriel Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District (SGVMVCD) collected an adult female Asian tiger mosquito in its jurisdiction in El Monte. These are the first indications Asian tiger mosquitoes are active in Los Angeles County this year, and confirm the non-native species survived over the winter.

“We have been actively fighting the Asian tiger mosquito since we first discovered its re-emergence in Southern California last September,” says Director of Scientific-Technical

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Services Susanne Klueh. “This is the first time we have positively confirmed its presence in 2012, and we will continue our intense surveillance and control efforts to try to eradicate this species from Southern California.”

District staff have been working diligently to assess the extent of the infestation and have taken aggressive measures to prevent the further spread of this species. Efforts that began in September 2011 include removing sources of water, controlling larvae, and applying pesticides on infested properties and in the underground storm drains to target adult mosquitoes. The districts have also conducted comprehensive public outreach and door-to-door campaigns to raise awareness about the Asian tiger mosquito.

The Asian tiger mosquito is native to Southeast Asia and can be identified by its unique size, color, and feeding habits. The mosquito is approximately ¼ inch long and has distinctive black and white stripes across its body and legs. Unlike mosquitoes native to Southern California, the Asian tiger mosquito is an aggressive day-time biter and can transmit the viruses that cause dengue, chikungunya, and encephalitis.

In order to stop the spread of this species in Los Angeles County, public health officials are calling upon all residents in nearby communities to do their part by following these steps:

- **CALL AND REPORT any sightings of small, black and white mosquitoes or if you are being bitten by mosquitoes during the day!**
- Dump and drain all standing water around your home.
- Discard or put away any containers, cans, buckets, and old tires around the home.
- Remove any water dishes from beneath potted plants and drill drain holes in all decorative flower pots.
- Throw away trash in your yard including wrappers and bags.
- Do not store water in uncovered buckets or rain barrels. Ensure rain barrels are completely sealed to prevent mosquito entry.
- Empty bird baths and small fountains completely or clean them thoroughly every 3 days.
- Clean out rain gutters and lawn drains to ensure water does not collect.
- Water plants from the bottom near the soil, not the top.
- These mosquitoes prefer wet, hot and humid areas with lots of plants, shrubs, and tree foliage. Regularly check gardens for potential breeding sites.
- Talk to your neighbors about mosquito breeding prevention.

For more information about the Asian tiger mosquito, to submit a service request, or to report possible sightings, please contact the Greater Los Angeles County Vector Control District at (562) 944-9656 (www.glacvcd.org) or the San Gabriel Valley Mosquito & Vector Control District at (626)814-9466 (www.sgvmosquito.org).

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