



**Merced County Mosquito Abatement District**  
3478 Beachwood Drive, P.O. Box 909, Merced CA 95341  
Phone: (209) 722-1527  
Toll: (800) 622-3242  
Fax: (209) 722-3051  
[www.mcmosquito.org](http://www.mcmosquito.org)

NUMBER: 20-01  
FOR RELEASE: Immediate

Date: March 18, 2020

## **Merced County Mosquito Abatement District Takes Precautions to Help Slow the Spread of COVID-19**

MERCED, CA– The Merced County Mosquito Abatement District (District) is taking proactive measures to protect its staff and community to lessen the spread of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19).

Starting Wednesday, March 18<sup>th</sup>, the District will close its facilities to the public as a precautionary measure to help decrease the spread of COVID-19. Individual service requests and in-person property inspections will be postponed through Friday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>. The official start of District operations is April 6<sup>th</sup> and a reassessment of social distancing will be reevaluated at that time.

“As a public health agency, we need to prioritize the health and safety of our staff and residents,” said General Manager Rhiannon Jones. “Our Mosquito Control Technicians will continue to monitor and treat for mosquitoes in public areas, such as, gutters, drains, pastures, wetlands, and dairy lagoons. Even though we are limiting access into our District office, we will continue to operate critical programs to ensure mosquito populations don’t get out of hand. Although many people are focused on coronavirus, mosquito-borne diseases like West Nile Virus (WNV), continue to be present year after year in our community.”

The District will also continue to keep the public informed on their social media and website. Outreach, community events, and our school program will be suspended until the end of March.

It is important to remember that COVID-19 is not transmitted through the bite of a mosquito. However, other viruses, such as WNV, can be. Therefore, residents are asked to be proactive in the coming weeks while they stay close to home by eliminating mosquito sources inside and around their property. The following steps will help reduce the threat of mosquito-transmitted diseases and mosquito breeding this coming season:

- **Dump or drain** standing water. Mosquitoes prefer to lay eggs in stagnant water.
- **Defend** yourself against mosquitoes by using EPA- recommended insect repellents.
- Avoid being outdoors when mosquitoes are present, typically during **Dawn** and **Dusk**.
- Ensure that swimming pools, spas, and ponds are properly maintained.

For more information on steps residents to take to prevent mosquito breeding, Merced County residents should contact Merced County Mosquito Abatement District at (209) 722-1527 [main], (800) 622-3242 [toll], or [www.mcmosquito.org](http://www.mcmosquito.org).

Merced County citizens wanting up to date information regarding COVID-19 should contact Merced County Public Health Department.

###END###