



County of Fresno

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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NEWS RELEASE

Public Health Communication Unit
559-600-3200

First Human Case of Chikungunya Virus Disease in Fresno County

The Fresno County Department of Public Health has received confirmation that a female Fresno County resident is the first case of Chikungunya virus disease in Fresno County this year. The resident was not hospitalized and remembers being bitten by mosquitos while on vacation in a country impacted by the Chikungunya virus.

Chikungunya virus is a disease that is transmitted to humans through the bite of an infected mosquito. Only certain species of mosquitoes, including *Aedes aegypti*, are capable of transmitting the disease. The *Aedes aegypti* mosquito is a small, dark mosquito with white markings and banded legs. This mosquito will bite throughout the day and evening, and it readily enters houses to bite indoors.

“The presence in this County of BOTH *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes AND an individual infected with Chikungunya virus means we must take seriously the possibility of local transmission of this disease. Protection from mosquito bites and elimination of mosquito breeding sources is critical,” states Dr. Ken Bird, Health Officer, Fresno County Department of Public Health.

Fresno County residents, as well as those who live in all valley communities, are urged to take the following precautions:

- Report the presence of mosquitoes by calling the Consolidated Mosquito Abatement District at: 800-821-1577, 559-896-1085 or on the website at www.mosquitobuzz.net.
- Apply insect repellents that contain DEET, picaridin, oil of lemon eucalyptus or IR 3535 according to label instructions.
- Make sure that doors and windows have tight-fitting screens to keep out mosquitoes. Repair or replace screens with tears or holes.
- Use mosquito netting over infant cribs, carriers, and strollers.
- Eliminate standing water and unused containers that can hold water from around the home and farm.
- Water containers, such as pet watering bowls, should be emptied, rinsed out and refilled twice weekly.
- Contact a local mosquito abatement district to report mosquito problems, poorly maintained swimming pools that appear green, or to get FREE mosquito fish for backyard ponds, water features or horse troughs.

For information on chikungunya disease, visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website at: <http://www.cdc.gov/chikungunya/index.html>

Information on *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes is posted on the Fresno County Department of Public Health website at www.fcdph.org Click on “In The News” - Mosquito Season Has Arrived.

For additional information, residents can visit mosquito abatement district websites: www.mosquitobuzz.net (click on *Aedes aegypti* at the task bar), and/or www.fresnomosquito.org.

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Promotion, preservation and protection of the community's health

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