



## Happy Halloween!

### First Case of Locally Acquired Dengue in Southern California

On October 20<sup>th</sup>, The Pasadena Public Health Department released a statement regarding a case of locally-acquired Dengue in one of their residents. The person had no history of travel. This is the first confirmed case of dengue in California not associated with travel and is a rare case of local transmission in the continental United States. San Gabriel Valley Mosquito and Vector Control and Pasadena Public Health are increasing surveillance and control in the area. *Aedes* mosquitoes infected with Dengue are able to transmit it to humans, but Dengue is not established (endemic) in California.

For the residents of West Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District, the risk is extremely low. There is no evidence of Dengue in our area. To date, over 17,000 mosquitoes have been tested for Dengue and were found negative. The District also has a comprehensive mosquito management plan that addresses both native mosquitoes and invasive *Aedes*, starting with thorough inspections of the property and surrounding areas allowing our technicians to determine the best methods of control.

While risk is very low, it illustrates the importance of mosquito control and our resident's adoption of best practices for keeping mosquitoes away from them and their yards. Remember to wear a repellent when outdoors, check for and dump any standing water on the property (especially planters, flowerpots, and other small containers), and call the District for help.



Invasive *Aedes* mosquitoes are a vector of Dengue

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### Weather Turning in Our Favor!

It appears that the heat and humidity are finally behind us, which means mosquito activity will see a big reduction! As our nighttime temps get into the mid-low fifties and the photoperiod (hours of sunshine) reduce, mosquitoes will be preparing to overwinter (kind of like a hibernation) and finally giving us a break.

While this is terrific news, know you can always call us if your having trouble with mosquitoes, and don't forget about them next spring when they will again be getting ready to come after us. Filling flowerpot saucers with aquarium gravel, keeping yard drains and gutters clear, and making sure there aren't any containers outside that may fill up with water will give you a head start on knocking out skeeters before they have a chance to get in your yard!



The downward trend in nighttime temps is good news for us!

## Getting "Caught up" or, Changing Minds About Spiders!

Spiders, a Halloween staple, often conjure images of creepy basements, abandoned homes, and dark forests. But do spiders really deserve such infamy? We say NO! Spiders are an integral part of the ecosystem and are our "partners" in insect control. They are also complex and fascinating critters, at least once you get to know them!

Take the humble jumping spider for example. These minute spiders are the most diverse group, with over 5,000 species worldwide, making a living in almost all parts of the world. They come in fantastic colors, have complex behaviors, and can do amazing feats of acrobatics (like jumping 50 times their length)!

They are ambush predators, relying on their speed, jumping, and stealth to catch prey instead of building webs. There is even a species known as the vampire jumping spider that actively seeks out blood fed female mosquitoes (and can tell the difference between male and female mosquitoes, even females empty of blood!). So this Halloween, don't shiver in disgust over spiders, rather revel in these wonderful skeeter eating partners!



The Vampire Spider Video of Peacock Jumping spider dance

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Mosquito and Vector Control | 1295 East Locust St, Ontario, CA 91761

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