

Scott A. Buxbaum

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To District Parents and Guardians,

The Cajon Valley Union School District as well as San Diego County in general has recently experienced a sharp increase in mosquito populations and bites. The County of San Diego has provided good information regarding recent invasions by three new species of mosquitoes into our area. This information explains their behaviors as well as measures for personal protection and prevention of habitats for breeding. This can be found at:

<https://www.countynewscenter.com/invasive-aussie-mozzie-found-in-san-diego-county/>

From our previous experiences with mosquitoes native to our area, we expect to see their activity only during dusk and dawn hours. Rarely, if ever, do we see them during daytime hours. Unfortunately, these new mosquitoes are most active during the daytime hours. They routinely fly low to the ground, are attracted to humans and frequently bite the legs.

Protective measures that can be taken to prevent bites include wearing long sleeves and pants or use of an appropriate insect repellent. Applications of appropriate repellents have proven to be both safe and effective. If you choose to use these products to protect your student, please ensure that they are applied at home, before school, and not brought to class. Information from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on the use of these products can be found at: <https://www.cdc.gov/zika/prevention/prevent-mosquito-bites.html>

The District has been in contact with the County of San Diego Vector Control Department. They are working with us to inspect school sites and to take the necessary steps to ensure attractive breeding grounds for these mosquitoes do not exist on our school sites. Preventing stagnant water from ponding, frequent mowing of grass and irrigation maintenance are steps we are taking. If you notice areas on your school campus that you feel need attention, please report it to the school office. We also please ask that you take similar precautions around your homes as mosquitoes do not necessarily just stay at the location of breeding and can cross property lines. By working together, we can help reduce the impact to our community that we are currently experiencing.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me via e-mail or phone listed above.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Scott A. Buxbaum'.

Scott Buxbaum
Assistant Superintendent, Business Services