



THE ZIKA VIRUS

Mosquito Bite Protection and Mosquito Prevention are Key

What is the Zika Virus?

Zika fever is an illness caused by a virus spread by mosquitoes, similar to those that cause Dengue and the West Nile virus. It has been identified in several countries in Central and South America, Mexico, and the Caribbean since 2015, and previous outbreaks have been reported in Africa, Southeast Asia, and the Pacific Islands. In the United States, cases of Zika were first reported by travelers returning from areas with active outbreaks. In late July 2016, locally transmitted cases have been identified in South Florida. As the Zika virus continues to be investigated, **the CDC recommends special precautions for pregnant women and women trying to become pregnant.** The Florida Department of Health offers free Zika risk assessment and testing to any pregnant woman who would like to be tested.

Symptoms and Treatment

Zika fever is a mild illness and hospitalization is uncommon. Signs and symptoms of Zika fever may include: a low-grade fever, rash, joint pain, conjunctivitis (pink eye), body aches, headache, eye pain, and vomiting; however, only 1 in 5 cases exhibit such symptoms. Treatment is symptomatic, since there is no specific treatment to combat the virus. Illness typically resolves within a week; however, infection during pregnancy can cause certain birth defects.

How Zika is Transmitted

Zika fever is acquired through the bite of an infected mosquito. Perinatal and sexual transmission have also been reported.

Actions Taken in Florida to Control the Potential Spread of the Zika Virus

The Governor declared a public health emergency on February 1st in several counties, including Broward and Miami-Dade, that had confirmed travel-related cases of Zika. This allowed the State and other government agencies to enact specific programs such as mosquito control and public education on prevention of the spread of the virus. As of August, there have also been confirmed locally transmitted cases of Zika in Miami-Dade and Broward County. Broward County Mosquito Control, the Broward County Department of Health and Broward Emergency Management continue to inform and educate the public and health care providers, and have increased mosquito control efforts throughout the region.

How You Can Protect Against Contracting Zika

The Florida Department of Health and the CDC encourages following these guidelines for Protection and Prevention: **Drain standing water, no matter how small; cover your skin with an EPA-registered insect repellent containing at least 20% DEET or other recommended active ingredient (such as Picaridin or IR3535) and wear protective clothing; keep mosquitoes outside by keeping windows and doors closed and repairing screens.** Additional details at cdc.gov/features/StopMosquitoes

More details on the [Florida Department of Health](http://FloridaDepartmentofHealth.gov) webpage on Zika: Floridahealth.gov/zika
Zika Virus Information Hotline: 1-855-622-6735