

Key Points Zika Virus

NOTE: These statements were taken directly from the CDC. Please ensure that CDC is credited if these are used in your local media.

The Florida Department of Health (FL DOH) has identified an area with local mosquito-borne Zika virus transmission (active Zika virus transmission) in Miami (<http://www.cdc.gov/zika/intheus/florida-update.html>). Based on the earliest time of symptom onset and a maximal two-week incubation period for Zika virus, this guidance applies to women of reproductive age and their partners who live in or traveled to this area after June 15, 2016.

This is an ongoing investigation, and CDC is rapidly learning more about the extent of active Zika virus transmission in the area identified by the FL DOH. CDC is applying existing guidance to the occurrence of Zika virus transmission in the affected area of Florida.

North Carolina continues to prepare in the event of local transmission in the state.

- The mosquito most commonly associated with the Zika virus (*Aedes aegypti*) has not been identified in North Carolina this year.
- The North Carolina Division of Public Health, in partnership with local health departments, Western Carolina University, East Carolina University and North Carolina State University continue to collect and identify mosquitoes. To date, more than 25,000 container-inhabiting *Aedes* collected from participating counties, municipalities, and partners have been identified to date.
- From these collections, the universities have identified NO *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes. 99.6% of the ovitrap collections are represented by three species: *Aedes albopictus*, *Aedes triseriatus*, and *Aedes japonicus*.
- The percentages of *Aedes japonicus* and *Aedes triseriatus* vary regionally, but *Aedes albopictus* is the primary container inhabiting *Aedes* in the participating counties according to the ovitrap data.
- At this time, risk of local transmission of the Zika virus by *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes in North Carolina is low. The North Carolina Division of Public Health continues to plan for the event of local transmission.

Travel Precautions

- **The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has issued a travel advisory recommending pregnant women avoid non-essential travel to any area with active Zika virus transmission (including identified areas in Florida).** Women who are trying to become pregnant should talk to their doctors about the risk of Zika virus infection before traveling.
- **Per CDC guidance, women who are pregnant and traveled to the affected area in Florida on or after June 15, 2016 should be tested for Zika virus and use condoms for the duration of pregnancy.**
- **Per CDC guidance, women who are not pregnant but who traveled to the affected area in Florida on or after June 15, 2016 should wait at least eight weeks before trying to get pregnant.**
- Travelers to any of the countries with active Zika transmission should follow precautions to minimize their exposure to mosquito bites. Please visit the CDC Zika prevention web site for the most up to date information for travelers:
<http://www.cdc.gov/zika/prevention/index.html>
- Pregnant women are particularly urged to take note of the recent CDC travel recommendations advising that non-essential travel to areas with active virus transmission be postponed if possible.

Pregnant Women

- Pregnant women and their partners who must travel to the area in Florida with local Zika virus transmission identified by the Florida Department of Health should follow steps to prevent mosquito bites.
- Women and men who have traveled to the area with active Zika virus transmission identified by the Florida Department of Health and who have a pregnant sex partner should abstain from sex or consistently and correctly use condoms for the duration of the pregnancy.
- A pregnant woman infected with Zika virus can pass the virus to her unborn baby. A serious birth defect of the brain called microcephaly, and other adverse pregnancy outcomes have been reported in some mothers who were infected with Zika virus while pregnant.

- Sexual transmission of Zika virus is possible, and is of particular concern during pregnancy. Women with Zika virus disease should wait at least eight weeks and men with Zika virus disease should wait at least six months after symptom onset to attempt conception.

Prevention

- Even though risk of local transmission is low, individuals are always encouraged, as a routine precaution, to take steps to prevent mosquito bites, such as:
 - Wearing insect repellent registered with the Environmental Protection Agency. When used as directed, EPA-registered insect repellents are proven safe and effective, even for pregnant and breast-feeding women.
 - Wearing long-sleeved shirts and pants.
 - Using air conditioning or making sure window and door screens are in place.
 - Individuals can also help reduce mosquitos around their property by doing the following:
 - “Tip and Toss” - make sure that containers are tipped over to empty excess water. Mosquitos can breed in an area as small as a plastic bottle cap.
 - Clean up leaves and debris around your property.
 - Remove leaves and debris from gutters.

For more information on the Zika virus, please go to:

<http://epi.publichealth.nc.gov/zika/>

<http://www.cdc.gov/zika/>