



Zika Virus Information – February 4, 2016

ISSUE

The World Health Organization declared the mosquito-borne Zika virus a global health threat, based on the suspicion that the virus may be to blame for thousands of birth defects in Brazil in the past year. The first travel-related Zika case was confirmed in Georgia on February 3. The CDC is one of the lead global agencies in the battle against this virus, and officials say the outbreak is far from over, with major challenges ahead.

AFFECTED REGIONS

- As of February 3, 2016, per the CDC:
 - Africa: Cape Verde
 - Central and South America (26 countries)
 - Pacific Islands: American Samoa, Samoa, Tonga
 - Southern United States (reported in returning travelers)

SYMPTOMS

- About 80% of the people infected do not have symptoms. For the 20% affected, symptoms are mild to include fever, rash, joint pain and red eye or conjunctivitis, which last from a couple of days up to one week.
- There is no evidence that the virus stays in the system that would potentially affecting future pregnancies.

CONCERNS / PREVENTION

- The Zika virus is in the bloodstream very briefly as the bloodstream is cleared of the virus after about a week (FDA).¹
- There is no vaccine available.
- Avoid being bit by mosquitoes. Wear long sleeved shirts and long pants.
- Blood donations may be affected from recent travelers infected with the Zika virus.
- The CDC recommends that pregnant women should not go to a region that has spreading of the Zika virus.
- Diagnosis of virus in pregnant women or women planning on becoming pregnant.

DIALYSIS CONCERNS

- This virus can presumably be spread through blood and blood products.
- Even if dialysis patients do not plan to get pregnant, they may have partners who are infected with the virus.

TRANSMISSION

- There are reports that the virus can spread through blood transfusion and sexual contact.
- During the first week of infection, Zika virus can be found in the blood and passed from an infected person to another mosquito through mosquito bites. An infected mosquito can then spread the virus to other people.
- Avoid mosquito bites during the first week of illness to help prevent others from getting sick.

¹ WHO: Zika Virus an International Threat. February 2, 2016. NIH/US National Library of Medicine MedlinePlus.



MOSQUITO CONTROL

- Keep windows closed and use air conditioning if it is warm outside.
- Use screens when windows are open.
- Use a mosquito repellent recommended by the US Environmental Protection Agency:
<http://www.epa.gov/insect-repellents/find-insect-repellent-right-you>
- Eliminate standing water (buckets, puddles, bowls, etc.) where mosquitoes lay eggs.
- Use a mosquito net.

REQUESTS / NEEDS

- There are no requests or needs for assistance at this time.

LINKS

- CDC Zika Virus <http://www.cdc.gov/zika/>
- CDC Resources <http://www.cdc.gov/zika/resources/index.html>
- CDC Posters <http://www.cdc.gov/zika/fs-posters/index.html>
- WHO Zika Virus <http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/zika/en/>
- WHO Zika (Spanish) <http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/zika/es/>
- Articles:
<http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/eid/article/21/2/pdfs/14-1363.pdf>
http://www.npr.org/sections/goatsandsoda/2016/02/03/465448198/cdc-sees-major-challenges-ahead-in-the-fight-against-zika?utm_campaign=KHN%3A+First+Edition&utm_source=hs_email&utm_medium=email&utm_content=25914501&_hsenc=p2ANqtz--M_EjNZkkYdeVCEuYf-bpVrXAUjjMDI9KXbJwhDo699iyZrLuSaWznAKIZDEC1sQkxV6eWn4AP-Pk8ROWOwk4jrdgzMQ&_hsmi=25914501
http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/2016/02/04/health/ap-lt-med-hoarding-zika.html?utm_campaign=KHN%3A+First+Edition&utm_source=hs_email&utm_medium=email&utm_content=25914501&_hsenc=p2ANqtz-8W2Qs2jfcHnFru4EZ6PB1-A7pfDLZMrA1M9CtCucns-vJXUo40mYzQGrsvFUaT8llv1oWCvxYA-i6yuRmBsxzic3wg&_hsmi=25914501&_r=0
- KCER <http://kcercoalition.com/resources/alerts-and-recall-notifications/>

Respectfully submitted February 4, 2016
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