

Health Advisory: Zika Virus Infection

Minnesota Department of Health Jan 19, 2016 12:00 CST

Action Steps:

Local and tribal health departments: Please forward to hospitals, clinics, urgent care centers and convenience clinics in your jurisdiction.

Hospitals and clinics: Please distribute to anyone caring for patients with new illness, particularly returning travelers and pregnant women.

Healthcare providers:

- Consider Zika virus in all patients with acute fever, rash, arthralgia, or conjunctivitis who traveled to areas with ongoing virus transmission in the two weeks prior to onset. Also consider other mosquito-transmitted diseases such as dengue, chikungunya or malaria.
- Advise pregnant women to postpone/cancel travel to Zika outbreak areas.
- Encourage patients traveling to Zika outbreak areas to use mosquito repellent and to stay in buildings with windows and door screens.
- Report suspect cases within 24 hours to MDH at 651-201-5414 or 1-877-676-5414.
- Contact MDH 651-201-5414 or 1-877-676-5414 about submitting serum specimens.

Summary

Since it was first found in the Western Hemisphere in May 2015, Zika virus has been spreading throughout much of the Americas in a mosquito-to-human-to-mosquito cycle. This virus usually causes mild symptoms or no symptoms.

However, during the current outbreak, severe outcomes including microcephaly in infants, fetal loss, and Guillain-Barre syndrome have been reported. While these more severe outcomes are still under study, it is important for providers to be aware of this virus and provide advice to their patients who travel out of the country. On Friday, January 15, 2016, CDC released an official health advisory.

- [Recognizing, Managing, and Reporting Zika Virus Infections in Travelers Returning from Central America, South America, the Caribbean, and Mexico \(http://emergency.cdc.gov/han/han00385.asp \)](http://emergency.cdc.gov/han/han00385.asp)

Current Activity

In the Americas, Zika activity has been reported in: **Barbados, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, El Salvador, French Guiana, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Martinique, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Puerto Rico, Saint Martin, Suriname, and Venezuela.** Please visit the CDC Zika website (<http://www.cdc.gov/zika/>) for current updates and risk areas elsewhere in the world.

A copy of this HAN is available in PDF and Word format at www.health.state.mn.us/han/.

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