

- There have been no cases of Zika virus reported in Washtenaw County.
- As of April 27, 2016, there have been 426 travel-associated Zika virus cases reported in the United States. No humans have been infected by mosquitoes in the United States as of this date.
- There is no vaccine or treatment for Zika virus. To prevent infection, avoid travel to areas with active Zika virus transmission and avoid mosquito bites.

Zika Virus

Zika virus is spread to people primarily through the bite of an infected *Aedes* mosquito. No humans have been infected as of yet by mosquitoes in the United States. However, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates the potential range of *Aedes aegypti* and *Aedes albopictus* mosquitoes to span from Florida to Ohio and Indiana. Zika virus has been actively transmitted by mosquitoes to humans in Mexico, Central and South America and the Caribbean. Zika virus can also be spread by an infected man to his partner during sex.

Most people infected with Zika virus don't know they have the disease and don't have any symptoms. If symptoms are present, they include fever, rash, joint pain, and conjunctivitis (red eyes). The illness is usually mild and symptoms last for several days to a week after being bitten by an infected mosquito. People who are infected usually don't get sick enough to go to the hospital, and they very rarely die of Zika. Once a person has been infected, he or she is likely to be protected from future infections. There is no vaccine to prevent infection or medicine to treat Zika virus.

While most Zika virus infections are mild, infection during pregnancy can cause a serious birth defect called microcephaly, as well as other severe fetal brain defects. Microcephaly is a where a baby's head is smaller than expected. Babies with microcephaly often have smaller brains that might not have developed properly.

To prevent Zika virus, West Nile virus and other mosquito-borne illnesses, residents should avoid mosquito bites by wearing long sleeves and pants and by applying insect repellent. Residents should also eliminate standing water on their property (tires, flower pots, clogged gutters, pool covers, etc.). The CDC has specific recommendations for pregnant women, women who plan to become pregnant, and their sex partners. Women should talk to their healthcare provider about travel plans if they are or plan to become pregnant.

Washtenaw County Public Health is coordinating testing for Zika virus with local health care providers. All requests for testing must be approved by local health departments before submission to the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS). Testing is currently recommended for:

- Pregnant women with or without symptoms who have traveled to an area with active Zika virus transmission within the last 12 weeks.
- Individuals with symptoms who have traveled to an area with active Zika virus transmission within the last two weeks.

Local health care providers, including health systems and hospitals, can provide any needed testing. Residents should contact their health provider or visit a local hospital or urgent care to request testing.

What is WCPH doing to address this issue?

- We coordinate testing with local health care providers, using state and federal guidance. Since this February, 47 Washtenaw County residents who traveled to Zika-infected areas have been tested for Zika virus. As of the beginning of May, 43 have tested negative and 4 tests are still pending.
- We provide education and outreach to residents on avoiding mosquito bites; not only to prevent possible Zika infection, but also to avoid West Nile virus and other mosquito-borne illnesses.
- We consult with local units of government and provide guidance on mosquito control activities.
- At this time, WCPH is not conducting mosquito surveillance. In the past, we have trapped and tested mosquitoes when needed, with the support of additional staffing and funding.

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For more information:

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