



# MADISON COUNTY DEPARTMENT of HEALTH

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## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Residents Should Consider Avoiding Travel to Zika Affected Countries**

Madison County Health Department is urging residents to take strict precautions to prevent mosquito bites when traveling to prevent Zika Virus infection. Recent Zika affected areas of concern include, but may not be limited to: Central America, South America, the Caribbean, and Mexico.

Cases of Zika have been reported in travelers returning to the U.S. from Zika-affected areas. As of January 29<sup>th</sup>, nine travel associated cases have been reported in New York State. No locally transmitted Zika cases have been reported in the continental United States.

Zika is mosquito-borne flavivirus transmitted primarily to people by the bite of an infected mosquito from the species, *Aedes aegypti*.

“Not all mosquitoes are the same. Different mosquitoes spread different viruses,” said Madison County Public Health Director Eric Faisst. “The species of mosquito associated with the spread of the Zika virus is not found in Madison County. However, residents may have plans to travel this winter and it remains important for those traveling to be aware of Zika affected areas when making travel plans.”

Zika, first identified in 1947 in Uganda, has just recently made its way from Africa and Southeast Asia to the America’s. Concern about the Zika Virus has heightened due to reports of a possible link to serious birth defects and other poor pregnancy outcomes in babies of mothers infected with Zika virus while pregnant. Zika can be transmitted from an infected pregnant mother to her baby during pregnancy or around the time of birth. More studies are planned to examine this risk. Until more is known and out of an abundance of caution, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued the recommendation for pregnant women and women trying to become pregnant to consider postponing travel to the areas where Zika virus transmission is ongoing.

Mosquitoes that spread Zika virus bite both indoors and outdoors, mostly during the daytime, requiring protection from mosquitoes throughout the entire day. Mosquito prevention strategies include wearing long-sleeved shirts and long pants, using U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)–registered insect repellents, using permethrin-treated clothing and gear, and staying and sleeping in



screened-in or air-conditioned rooms. When used as directed on the product label, insect repellents containing DEET, picaridin, and IR3535 are safe for pregnant women.

The most common symptoms of Zika virus infection are fever, rash, joint pain, and conjunctivitis (red eyes). Symptoms typically begin 2 to 7 days after being bitten by an infected mosquito. Residents that traveled recently and experience symptoms common of Zika infection should go to their healthcare provider.

About 1 in 5 people infected with Zika will get sick. For people who get sick, the illness is usually mild with symptoms lasting from several days to a week. For this reason, many people might not realize they have been infected. Severe disease is uncommon.

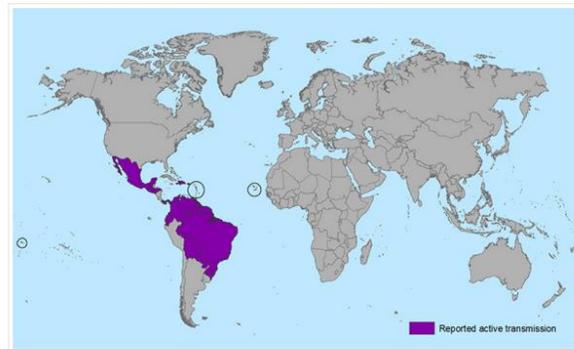
For more information on Zika, visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevent (CDC) website at <http://www.cdc.gov/zika/index.html>

Additional Resources:

- Map of current Zika affected areas at: <http://www.cdc.gov/zika/geo/index.html>.
- Additional guidelines for insect repellent use at: <http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/page/avoid-bug-bites>

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Countries and territories with active Zika virus transmission



AMERICAS

- Barbados
- Bolivia
- Brazil
- Colombia
- Dominican Republic
- Ecuador
- El Salvador
- French Guiana
- Guadeloupe
- Guatemala
- Guyana
- Haiti
- Honduras
- Martinique
- Mexico
- Panama
- Paraguay
- Puerto Rico
- Saint Martin
- Suriname
- U.S. Virgin Islands
- Venezuela

OCEANIA/PACIFIC ISLANDS

- Samoa

AFRICA

- Cape Verde

Map retrieved February 1, 2016 from <http://www.cdc.gov/zika/geo/index.html>