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**PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY**  
**ZIKA UPDATE AND LOCAL TRANSMISSION IN FLORIDA COUNTIES**  
**AUGUST 1, 2016**

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### **Zika Virus Disease (ZVD) Update**

Zika virus disease (ZVD) is a viral illness caused by the Zika virus, a flavivirus. It is primarily spread through the bite of infected mosquitoes, typically *Aedes* species, but can also be spread through blood transfusions and sexual contact. Although as many as 80-85% of cases are asymptomatic, symptomatic individuals may demonstrate fever, conjunctivitis, rash, myalgias and headache. Because testing can cross-react with other flavivirus species such as dengue and yellow fever, a thorough travel history is essential. The vast majority of symptomatic individuals will make a full recovery, but a minority may develop Guillain-Barré syndrome, and pregnant women who become infected by Zika may pass it to their baby, in which it may confer a substantially greater risk of microcephaly and other birth defects.

As of July 27, 2016, the US Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has identified 1,658 cases of ZVD in US states and 4,750 in US territories. While the majority in US territories were locally acquired through mosquitoes, the majority of cases within US states are travel associated. California has recorded 87 cases and Riverside County has had one recorded case of ZVD as of this advisory, all of which were travel-associated.

As of August 1, however, the Florida Department of Health (FLDOH) has now identified an area with local mosquito-borne Zika virus transmission in Miami. This is the first known local transmission within the continental United States. To date, 14 local cases have been detected, 12 men and 2 women. It is expected that other regions favorable to *Aedes* mosquitoes will document similar local transmission in the future.

The CDC has released an official Health Advisory with updated recommendations for travel and testing of pregnant women and women of reproductive age to the affected region in Florida. Pregnant women should avoid non-essential travel to the area. Those who do travel to the region identified by FLDOH, or any identified Zika region, should be considered at risk and are candidates for testing. Women and men with ongoing risk for Zika virus exposure who are considering pregnancy should consult their healthcare provider and consider delaying the pregnancy and/or use of contraception for at least eight weeks. For additional information and complete recommendations, please see CDC Health Advisory 393.

Existing recommendations for other regions affected by Zika, such as the Caribbean and Central and South America, remain in effect.

## Laboratory Testing for Zika

Currently, laboratory testing for Zika is available through the California Department of Public Health Viral and Rickettsial Disease Laboratory (VRDL). Based on the published research and data from urine testing at the CDPH Viral and Rickettsial Disease Laboratory (VRDL), in addition to the above CDPH is recommending the submission of urine specimens for any symptomatic patient within 21 days of the onset of symptoms. A serum specimen must be submitted with a urine sample for the optimal interpretation of results.

Suspected Zika cases must be reported to Disease Control prior to submitting specimens to the Public Health laboratory. Hospital laboratories should coordinate with the Infection Preventionist on reporting suspected cases. Patients must meet clinical and travel history criteria to be approved for Zika testing. A quick sheet on Zika testing and the VRDL submittal form are located at <http://www.rivco-diseasecontrol.org/>. Specimens may also be tested for chikungunya and dengue. Questions on specimen collection and submission should be directed to Megan Crumpler, Public Health Laboratory Director at (951) 358-5070.

Clinicians may also refer patients to LabCorp or Quest for Zika testing. Criteria for testing should be based on guidance from CDC and the California Department of Public Health (CDPH). Usual referral procedures should be followed for having patients tested through LabCorp or Quest. The appropriate lab should be contacted for their specimen submission requirements. Testing done through LabCorp and Quest must still be reported to Public Health. Disease reporting requirements are listed below.

### Zika virus Resources for Health Care Providers:

CDPH: <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/HealthInfo/discond/Documents/ZIKAVirusFAQsforHealthCareProviders.pdf>

CDC: <http://www.cdc.gov/zika/hc-providers/>

### *Aedes aegypti* Mosquitoes

*Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes were discovered in Western Riverside County in 2015 and in the Coachella Valley in May 2016. These mosquitoes have the potential to transmit Zika virus as well as dengue, chikungunya and yellow fever.

A map with the current detection sites can be found at:

<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/HealthInfo/discond/Documents/AedesDistributionMap.pdf>

### Disease Reporting

Suspected and confirmed cases of Zika, as well as chikungunya and dengue, should be reported to Disease Control immediately by calling (951) 358-5107 during regular business hours or to the Public Health Duty Officer after hours at (951) 782-2974. Please note microcephaly (from any cause) is locally reportable by order of the Public Health Officer for Riverside County. WNV is reportable within one day of identification.

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