



## Information about Zika virus

### **Q. What is Zika?**

A. The Zika virus is part of the same family as the viruses that cause yellow fever, West Nile, chikungunya and dengue.

Zika is receiving a lot of media attention because of a connection between the virus and microcephaly, a neurological disorder that results in babies being born with abnormally small brains.

### **Q. How is Zika spread?**

A. Zika is primarily transmitted through the bite of infected *Aedes* mosquitoes. It can also be transmitted from a pregnant mother to her baby during pregnancy or around the time of birth. We do not know how often Zika is transmitted from mother to baby during pregnancy or around the time of birth.

### **Q. Who is at risk of being infected?**

A. Anyone who is living in or traveling to an area where Zika virus is found, who has not already been infected with Zika virus, is at risk for infection. Find out where the virus is found: <http://www.cdc.gov/zika/geo/index.html> )

### **Q. What are the symptoms of Zika virus infection?**

A. About one in five people infected with Zika will get sick. For people who get sick, the illness is usually mild. For this reason, many people might not realize they have been infected. Common symptoms include fever, rash, joint pain, or conjunctivitis (red eyes). Symptoms typically begin 2 to 7 days after being bitten by an infected mosquito.

### **Q. Is there a vaccine to prevent or medicine to treat Zika?**

A. No. There is no vaccine to prevent infection or medicine to treat Zika.

**Q. What can you do to protect yourself against Zika?**

A. With no treatment or vaccine available, the only protection against Zika is to avoid travel to areas with an active infestation. If you do travel to a country where Zika is present, the CDC advises strict adherence to mosquito protection measures:

- Use an EPA-approved repellent over sunscreen
- Wear long pants and long-sleeved shirts thick enough to block a mosquito bite, and
- sleep in air-conditioned, screened rooms

**Q. What should I do if I think I have Zika?**

A. See your healthcare provider if you develop a fever, rash, joint pain, or red eyes within 2 weeks after traveling to a country where Zika virus cases have been reported. Be sure to tell your health care provider where you traveled.