



Hunterdon County Department of Public Safety Division of Public Health Services



www.co.hunterdon.nj.us/health.html

ZIKA VIRUS FACT SHEET

What is Zika?



Zika virus is spread to people primarily through the bite of an infected mosquito. The most common symptoms of Zika are fever, rash, joint pain, and conjunctivitis. The illness is usually mild with symptoms lasting for several days to a week.

There are ongoing outbreaks of Zika virus due to infected mosquito populations in tropical Africa, Southeast Asia, the Pacific Islands, and the Americas. Specific areas where Zika virus transmission is ongoing are often difficult to determine and are likely to change over time. Please visit [CD C's Zika Travel Information page](#) for the most updated information.

Zika Virus is not currently found in the mosquito population in the continental United States.

Why are we hearing so much about Zika?

Although most people experience mild symptoms or no symptoms with Zika, the virus is showing to have severe health complications for pregnant women and her unborn child. An infected mother can transmit Zika virus to her fetus during pregnancy, which can cause microcephaly and other poor health outcomes for the baby.

The federal Center for Disease Control (CDC) has issued a travel notice (Level 2- Practice Enhanced Precautions) for people traveling to regions and certain countries where Zika virus transmission is occurring:

- Pregnant women in any trimester should consider postponing travel to the areas where Zika virus transmission is ongoing. Pregnant women who must travel to one of these areas should talk to their doctor or other healthcare provider first and strictly follow [steps to avoid mosquito bites](#) during the trip.
- Women trying to become pregnant should talk to their healthcare provider before traveling to these areas and strictly follow [steps to prevent mosquito bites during the trip](#).

How do I prevent getting Zika Virus?

There is no treatment or vaccine for Zika virus. The only prevention is to avoid bites from an infected mosquito.

Zika Virus is not currently found in the mosquito population in the continental United States.

Can people be tested for Zika virus?

If you have recently traveled to an area where Zika virus transmission is occurring, and you experience symptoms, you should speak to your healthcare provider. Your healthcare provider will work with the Hunterdon County Division of Public Health and New Jersey Department of Health to facilitate testing, if appropriate.

What is the Hunterdon County Division of Public Health doing about Zika Virus?

The Hunterdon County Division of Public Health includes communicable disease specialists and entomologists within the Public Health Nursing and Vector Control programs. Health Division staff routinely work to eliminate the spread of communicable disease and practice methods to control the county's mosquito population. Health Division staff are monitoring the evolving Zika outbreak and follow guidance provided by the CDC and New Jersey Department of Health.

The Division provides education and updated information to medical providers and the general public as it is available to protect the health of the residents.

The Division encourages all residents to stay informed about the Zika virus by visiting our website at www.co.hunterdon.nj.us/health.htm, New Jersey Department of Health <http://www.nj.gov/health/cd/zika/index.shtml>, and The Centers for Disease Control <http://www.cdc.gov/zika/index.htm>.