



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES AND PUBLIC PROTECTION
Commission on Fire Prevention and Control

Zika virus -The Basics

Earlier this year, a document was created by the DESPP to provide facts about the Zika virus, in an effort to familiarize agency staff with this disease. The following summarization is to aid personnel, in having an increased awareness of the disease.

- According to the CDC, as of 06-15-2016, this year there have been 755 travel-associated cases of Zika infection reported domestically.
- According to the CDC, as of 06-15-2016, this year there have been 1436 locally acquired and 4 travel-associated cases of Zika infection reported in the US territories.
- According to Dr. Pino of the CT. DPH, as of 06-16-2016, this year there have been 26 travel-associated cases of Zika in the State, eight cases confirmed in pregnant women.
- The disease is spread primarily through the bite of the infected *Aedes aegypti* and *Aedes Albopictus* mosquitos. It is also transmitted from infected pregnant women to their fetuses (causing microcephaly and other severe fetal brain defects), sexual contact and blood transfusions.
- Most infected people show mild, or no, symptoms which can last from several days to a week.
The most common symptoms are **fever, rash, joint pain, conjunctivitis (red eyes), muscle pain, headache.** There is no specific medicine or vaccine for Zika, and it is rarely fatal.
- Anyone who lives in, or travels to, an area where the Zika virus is found is at risk of contracting the virus. This is especially pertinent due to this summer's Olympic Games in Rio and the expected high volume of spectators traveling there.
- The current Zika Travel Notices are for: ***Cape Verdes; Mexico; The Caribbean*** (currently includes: Aruba, Barbados, Bonaire, Cuba, Curacao, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guadeloupe, Haiti, Jamaica, Martinique, Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, St. Barthelemy, St. Lucia, St. Martin, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, St. Maarten, Trinidad & Tobago, US Virgin Islands); ***Central America*** (currently includes: Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama); ***The Pacific Islands*** (currently includes: American Samoa, Fiji, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, New Caledonia, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Tonga); ***South America*** (currently includes: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, French Guiana, Guyana, Paraguay, Peru Suriname, Venezuela).
- The best way to prevent the transmission of this virus is to protect yourself from mosquito bites and exposure to bodily fluids.
 - I. Use Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) registered insect repellants (use only as directed on package)
 - II. Treat clothing and gear with Permethrin (use only as directed on package)
 - III. Ensure the use of basic infection control techniques, including the use of gloves/proper hand washing when dealing with an infected individual.

See original document for further information.

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