



ZIKA VIRUS FACT SHEET



Zika virus is currently spreading through Central and South America and causes a mild illness that lasts for up to a week. Approximately 80% of people infected with the virus do not become ill. The biggest concern is the virus's association with microcephaly – a neurological development problem causing small heads; however, this connection is still being studied. The most common symptoms of are fever, rash, joint pain, soreness, and conjunctivitis (red eyes) and last a few days.

AFFECTED AREAS

- Outbreaks are occurring in many countries throughout Central and South America; the CDC publishes up-to-date travel alerts on their website.
- As of February 2nd 2016, the only locally transmitted case of Zika in the United States was likely sexually transmitted.

PREVENTION

- No vaccine exists to prevent Zika virus disease.
- Preventing Zika requires avoiding mosquito bites:
 - Wear long-sleeved shirts and long pants.
 - Use EPA-approved insect repellent.
 - Use door and window screens to keep mosquitoes outside.
- Pregnant women should postpone travel to areas affected by Zika.

