

Worried about mosquito bites and ZIKA VIRUS?

February 10, 2016

What is Zika virus?

It is a disease transmitted by mosquitoes. The primary mosquito that transmits Zika virus is found in the tropics and southern U.S., but **it is not commonly found in Ohio**. There is no indication that it can spread person to person through casual contact.

The CDC has confirmed the first U.S. case of Zika virus infection in a non-traveler after the person's sexual partner returned from an affected country.

What we know about Zika virus and the risk to humans may change as public health officials are still learning about this virus. To stay up to date on the latest information go to the CDC website.

Where is Zika virus found?

There is no evidence of Zika virus in our local mosquito population at this time. Zika virus cases have been reported in the U.S., including Ohio, by returning international travelers.

The disease has historically occurred in Africa, Southeast Asia and islands in the Pacific Ocean. In May 2015, Zika virus was found for the first time in the Western Hemisphere in northeastern Brazil. The virus has since spread through much of the Caribbean, Central America and South America.

Who is at risk of being infected?

Anyone who lives in or travels to an area where Zika virus is found.

No vaccine exists to prevent Zika virus. **If you will be traveling to affected areas, you should take precautions to avoid mosquito bites.**

For more information if you are considering traveling to areas where Zika virus transmission is ongoing, go to the CDC website for the latest information: www.cdc.gov/zika/

How do you prevent mosquito bites?

While Zika is not found in our local mosquito population at this time, there are about 60 different species of mosquitoes in Ohio. Several of them are capable of transmitting serious diseases to humans. Mosquito bites can also cause allergic reactions with itching.

It is important to always prevent mosquito bites whether you are here at home or while traveling.

- Use EPA registered insect repellent, such as DEET
- Wear long-sleeved shirts and long pants
- Keep mosquitoes outside: use air conditioning or make sure that you repair and use window/door screens.
- If you are not able to protect yourself from mosquitoes inside your home or hotel, sleep under a mosquito bed net.
- Eliminate mosquito breeding grounds. Empty standing water around your yard. Even the smallest containers that can collect water can breed hundreds to thousands of mosquitoes.



Traveling?

Check the CDC's traveler's health website to see if the country you are planning to visit has any travel health notices: <http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices>

For more information:

Centers for Disease Control
<http://www.cdc.gov/zika/>

Ohio Department of Health
<http://www.odh.ohio.gov/odhprograms/bid/zdp/diseases/zika.aspx>



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