
PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY
ZIKA VIRUS IN MEXICO AND LATIN AMERICA
JANUARY 23, 2016

Situation Update

The California Department of Public Health issued a Health Advisory about Zika virus in certain regions of Mexico and Latin America. The advisory is attached for your reference.

In May 2015, the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) issued an alert regarding the first confirmed Zika virus infections in Brazil. Currently, outbreaks are occurring in many countries in the Americas. In December 2015, Puerto Rico reported its first confirmed Zika virus case. Thus far in California, Zika virus infections have been identified only in persons who were infected while traveling outside of the United States.

Background Information

Zika is an infectious disease caused by the Zika virus, which is transmitted to people by *Aedes* mosquitoes. Most infected people have no symptoms. If symptoms develop, the most common are fever, rash, joint pain, and/or red eyes. Symptoms usually begin 3-7 days after a person is bitten by an infected mosquito and last several days to a week. The illness is usually mild, and severe disease requiring hospitalization is uncommon. There is no specific treatment for Zika virus other than provision of supportive care including rest, fluids, and use of analgesic and antipyretics.

The Zika virus, as well as chikungunya and dengue, are transmitted by *Aedes aegypti* and *Aedes albopictus* mosquitoes. Laboratory testing is important to confirm the etiology of these diseases. Serum or cerebral spinal fluid will be accepted by the Riverside County Public Health laboratory for testing by RT-PCR, IgM ELISA and plaque neutralization tests (PRNT). The Public Health laboratory can be contacted at (951) 358-5070 for questions about collection and submission of specimens for testing.

Aedes aegypti mosquitoes were identified in the county in 2015 by the Riverside County Vector Program and the Northwest Mosquito and Vector Control District. No locally acquired human cases of chikungunya or dengue have been identified in the county.

Disease Reporting

Suspected and confirmed cases of Zika virus, chikungunya and dengue should be reported to Disease Control by calling (951) 358-5107 during regular business hours or (951) 782-7974 after hours to reach the Public Health duty officer.