



## Austin/Travis County Health and Human Services Department



Disease Prevention/Health Promotion Division  
Epidemiology and Health Statistics Unit  
15 Waller Street  
Austin, TX 78702

### Zika Situational Report – Friday, July 8, 2016

As of July 6, a total of 1133 laboratory-confirmed Zika virus disease cases have been reported to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) from 49 U.S. states and the District of Columbia. Of the 1133 cases reported, 1132 are travel associated, 14 were sexually transmitted, 5 had Guillain-Barré syndrome, and 1 was laboratory acquired. CDC reports that there are 320 pregnant women with any laboratory evidence of possible Zika virus infection within the U.S. states and the District of Columbia. Texas has 55 Zika virus disease cases.

There are 49 countries and territories with active Zika virus transmission.

As of today, staff have identified 205 persons (60 percent are pregnant women) in the City of Austin and Travis County for whom clinical specimens have been submitted to the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) for Zika virus testing. Results have been reported for 116 persons; two persons have been tested positive for Zika, two for Dengue, two for Chikungunya, and one was inconclusive. Testing results are pending for 37 persons (52 additional individual specimens were not able to be tested). There are no reported severe illnesses, hospitalizations, or deaths from Zika virus.

Staff continue to work with Austin area physicians to educate them on the process of submitting specimens to the state laboratory for Zika virus testing. Guidance related to Zika disease and pregnancy, laboratory testing, and prevention of sexual transmission of Zika virus have been prepared by the CDC. Staff are sharing this guidance to physician offices when requested.

Staff are also conducting interviews of persons whose physician has submitted serum specimen to the state laboratory to collect demographic and exposure data required by DSHS. Staff also provide guidance on ways to protect oneself from mosquito bites to individuals who have scheduled trips to areas where Zika virus is circulating.

The Chief Epidemiologist and Health Authority/Medical Director attended a Zika conference in McAllen, Texas on July 6. It was sponsored by DSHS, Hidalgo County Health and Human Services, and the Texas Association of City and County Health Officials. The conference was a working session to strategically plan a response to the Zika virus and goals included: a) focus on regional mutual aid; b) address major statewide gaps; c) unify as a state to address our response to a potential Zika outbreak; and d) discuss ways to increase educational outreach.

In addition, staff participated in a DSHS sponsored Zika tabletop exercise conference call.

For questions or more information about ways to reduce mosquitoes around property residents can continue to call Rodent and Vector program at 3-1-1.

The ATCHHSD's Zika website for healthcare providers and the public has been updated with links to new information and resources: <http://www.austintexas.gov/zika>.

Other news:

- To better understand Zika infection dynamics, the National Institutes of Health is supporting a study to monitor potential infections in a group of U.S. athletes, coaches, and members of the U.S. Olympic Committee (USOC) staff attending the Summer Olympics in Brazil.
- Mexico reports 667 confirmed Zika cases.

The most common symptoms of Zika virus disease are fever, rash, joint pain, and conjunctivitis (red eyes). The illness is typically mild and resolves within one week.

We continue to encourage people to follow travel precautions and avoid mosquito bites. Preventative measures residents can take to avoid mosquito bites include draining any water around their property, wearing long-sleeved shirts and long pants and using EPA-registered insect repellents.

At this time, no additional resources are needed to address and respond to the Zika virus.

ATCHHSD staff are available 24/7 to support healthcare providers in responding to any patient with a suspect Zika virus infections. ATCHHSD has created a website for healthcare providers and the public that provide information: <http://www.austintexas.gov/zika>.