



Austin/Travis County Health and Human Services Department

Disease Prevention/Health Promotion Division
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Zika Situational Report – Friday, May 13, 2016

As of May 11, a total of 503 laboratory-confirmed travel-associated Zika virus disease cases have been reported to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) from 44 U.S. states and the District of Columbia. Of the 503 cases reported, 48 were pregnant women, 10 were sexually transmitted, and 1 had Guillain-Barré syndrome. Texas has 34 Zika virus disease cases.

There are 47 countries and territories with active Zika virus transmission.

As of today, staff have identified 143 persons (62 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 71 persons; two persons have been tested positive for Zika, two for Dengue, and two for Chikungunya. Testing results are pending for 39 persons (33 additional individual specimens were not able to be tested). There are no reported severe illnesses, hospitalizations, or deaths from Zika virus.

Staff continue working 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 are also providing guidance on ways to protect oneself from mosquito bites to individuals who have scheduled trips to areas where Zika virus is circulating.

Staff earlier held a follow-up meeting with other city departments to discuss the mosquito abatement and messaging strategy. In addition, mosquito prevention tips ("*Fight the Bite, Day and Night*") was included in the Austin Energy customer news which was distributed to approximately 400,000 households.

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:

- Mexico reports 272 confirmed Zika cases.
- In Olympics advice, the World Health Organization (WHO) and Pan American Health Organization still urge pregnant women to avoid areas of active Zika transmission, which include the host city of Rio de Janeiro. Though the games will take place during Brazil's winter season when the mosquitoes that carry Zika and other viruses are less active, the agencies recommend that visitors follow WHO and home-country travel advice and consult a health worker before departing. Other steps include wearing insect repellent and light-colored clothing that covers as much of the body as possible and practicing safe sex or abstaining for at least 4 weeks after returning from the games, especially when Zika symptoms are or were present.
- CDC recommends that Zika virus specialized testing be performed on urine collected <14 days after onset of symptoms in patients suspected of Zika virus disease.

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>.