



## **Austin/Travis County Health and Human Services Department**



Disease Prevention/Health Promotion Division  
Epidemiology and Health Statistics Unit  
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### **Zika Situational Report – Friday, July 15, 2016**

As of July 13, a total of 1306 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 1306 cases reported, 1305 are travel associated, 14 were sexually transmitted, 5 had Guillain-Barré syndrome, and 1 was laboratory acquired. CDC reports that there are 346 pregnant women with any laboratory evidence of possible Zika virus infection within the U.S. states and the District of Columbia.

Texas has 63 Zika virus disease cases. Texas received laboratory confirmation of a past Zika virus infection in a baby recently born with microcephaly in Harris County. The mother traveled from Latin America, where she was likely infected, and the baby acquired the infection in the womb.

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

As of today, staff have identified 208 persons (59 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 125 persons; three persons have been tested positive for Zika, two for Dengue, two for Chikungunya, and one was inconclusive. Testing results are pending for 31 persons (52 additional individual specimens were not able to be tested). There are no reported severe illnesses 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 department has established a Zika Incident Management Team to coordinate planning and readiness activities.

The Health Authority/Medical Director gave a Zika presentation to the Texas CHIP (Children's Health Insurance Programs) Coalition.

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:

- The CDC notes that visitors to the upcoming Summer Olympic Games and Paralympic Games in Rio de Janeiro will have a low risk of infection, because the events will take place during Rio de Janeiro's winter season, when cooler and drier weather is known to reduce mosquito populations. Reiterating its travel advice for the games, the CDC said pregnant women should not attend them, that all visitors should take steps to avoid mosquito bites while in Brazil and for 3 weeks after returning home, and that all attendees should take steps to avoid sexual transmission.
- Mexico reports 786 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>.