



Austin/Travis County Health and Human Services Department



Disease Prevention/Health Promotion Division
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Zika Situational Report – Friday, August 5, 2016

As of August 3, a total of 1,825 laboratory-confirmed Zika virus disease cases have been reported to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) from 47 U.S. states and the District of Columbia. Of the 1,825 cases reported, 1,818 are travel associated, 16 were locally acquired mosquito-borne cases, 16 were sexually transmitted, 5 had Guillain-Barré syndrome, and 1 was laboratory acquired. As of July 28, CDC reports that there are 479 pregnant women with any laboratory evidence of possible Zika virus infection within the U.S. states and the District of Columbia. Of the 479 pregnant women, 15 had a liveborn infants with birth defects, and 6 had pregnancy losses with birth defects.

Texas has 97 Zika virus disease cases.

There are 54 countries and territories with active Zika virus transmission.

As of today, staff have identified 244 persons (57 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 143 persons; four persons have been tested positive for Zika, two for Dengue, two for Chikungunya, one for West Nile, and one was inconclusive. Testing results are pending for 39 persons (62 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 Health Authority/Medical Director gave a Zika presentation to the medical staff at the Apple Wellness Center. In addition, staff participated on a CDC national teleconference on the Zika virus response.

Staff have identified the contents of the Zika prevention kit which will be provided to confirmed Zika cases and cases for suspected local transmission, including residents in the surrounding area. The contents will include DEET mosquito repellent, mosquito dunks, condoms, Zika fact sheets, and homeowner prevention literature. An environmental assessment of the home and surrounding area will also be conducted.

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:

- CDC issued a travel advisory regarding the Wynwood neighborhood of Miami, Florida where 16 people were diagnosed as having Zika virus transmitted by local mosquitoes.
- CDC released a plan to award \$16 million to 40 states and territories as a stopgap measure to provide Zika funding while Congress is out of session. The funds were appropriated based on each state's risk for Zika transmission and infections, and range from \$200,000 to \$720,000. Florida, California, New York, and Texas will each be awarded \$720,000.
- Texas Medicaid will cover the cost of mosquito repellent for women who are between the ages of 10 and 45 or pregnant. The decision is in response to the possibility of local transmission of the Zika virus, which is spread primarily by mosquito bite. To be covered, a doctor must prescribe the repellent and the client must pick it up at a pharmacy. Eligible women can get up to two cans per month through Oct. 31. Women in the following programs are covered: Medicaid, CHIP, CHIP-Perinate, Healthy Texas Women, and Family Planning.
- Mexico reports 1,285 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>.