



## Austin/Travis County Health and Human Services Department



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### Zika Situational Report – Friday, September 02, 2016

As of August 31, a total of 2,722 laboratory-confirmed Zika virus disease cases have been reported to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) from 48 U.S. states and the District of Columbia. Of the 2,722 cases reported, 2,686 are travel associated, 35 were locally acquired mosquito-borne cases, 23 were sexually transmitted, 7 had Guillain-Barré syndrome, and 1 was laboratory acquired. As of August 25, CDC reports that there are 624 pregnant women with any laboratory evidence of possible Zika virus infection within the U.S. states and the District of Columbia.

Texas has 157 Zika virus disease cases.

There are 56 countries and territories with active Zika virus transmission.

As of September 2, staff have identified 302 persons (51 percent are pregnant women, we don't have pregnancy status for 21 samples) 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 200 persons; 8 persons have been tested positive for Zika, two for Dengue, and four for Chikungunya. The case previously diagnosed as a West Nile Virus infection is under more study. As the Zika case definition has changed, since September 1<sup>st</sup>, the previously unspecified *flavivirus* infections (*flavivirus* genus includes: Dengue, Yellow Fever, Japanese encephalitis, West Nile, and Zika) will be reported as cases of Zika. Testing results are pending for 24 persons (78 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 is sharing this guidance to physician offices when requested.

Staff is 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.

Staff has 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:

- Mexico reports 2,133 confirmed Zika cases. Along the border with Texas, there are 7 from Nuevo Leon and 1 from Coahuila.
- CDC has stated that since Zika virus spreads primarily through mosquito bites anyone who is sexually active and infected with Zika can pass it to their partners through sex. Sexual orientation or gender identity does not affect whether someone can get or pass Zika through sex.
- CDC is working with state health departments and blood and tissue collection organizations to help ensure the safety of our blood and tissue supply and reduce the risk of Zika virus transmission through blood transfusions and tissue transplants.
- The Florida Department of Health has identified two areas of Miami-Dade County where Zika is being spread by mosquitoes. In addition to the previously identified area in the Wynwood neighborhood, there is now mosquito-borne spread of Zika virus in a section of Miami Beach.

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>.