



About the Virus in Humans

- Franklin County Public Health (FCPH) is working closely with state and federal partners to monitor the evolving Zika situation. At this time the CDC believes it is unlikely that widespread virus transmission will occur in the U.S. mainland. We do know we will continue to see cases from those who have traveled to areas where Zika is found in mosquitoes.
- Zika is a virus that is primarily transmitted through the bite of an infected *Aedes* mosquito. It can also be transmitted from a pregnant woman to her baby during pregnancy or near the time of the baby's birth and cause microcephaly (a birth defect causing the baby to have a smaller head).
- Based on current information from the CDC, sexual transmission of Zika is possible and is of particular concern during pregnancy. Additionally, transmission through a blood transfusion is also under investigation.
- Most common symptoms of Zika are fever, rash, joint pain and conjunctivitis. Symptoms typically begin 2 to 7 days after being bitten by an infected mosquito.
- Anyone, especially pregnant women, living or traveling to an area where Zika is found, who have not previously been infected with the Zika virus, are at risk for the virus. **Pregnant women are urged not to travel to any area where Zika virus transmission is ongoing.**

About the Virus in Mosquitoes

- The mosquitoes that carry the Zika virus at this time are the *Aedes aegypti* and the *Aedes albopictus* (Asian tiger mosquito). Both of these mosquitoes are aggressive daytime biters that can also carry Chikungunya. The *Aedes aegypti* is not in Ohio and prefers warmer climates. The *Aedes albopictus* is found in Ohio and Franklin County (see map below).
- Because we don't have *Aedes aegypti* in Ohio and because both types of mosquitoes are limited in their distribution in the U.S. it is unlikely that Zika will become a disease that is circulating in the local mosquito populations throughout the U.S. (like we saw with West Nile virus).

Approximate distribution of *Aedes aegypti* in the United States*



Approximate distribution of *Aedes albopictus* in the United States*





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Zika Virus Information

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- FCPH has a comprehensive mosquito management program which enables us to respond to emerging diseases. We currently trap, larvicide and use other control measures for the *Aedes albopictus*. Because this mosquito is mostly active in the daytime, traditional night-time spraying will not be as effective. We will be prepared to respond to help control this mosquito population (just like we already do for mosquitoes that carry West Nile virus and LaCrosse encephalitis) should Zika suspected travelers return to our area or Zika infected mosquitoes are found.
- FCPH has discussed the situation with the State of Ohio's Entomologist and Vector Disease Control International, LLC, and is establishing plans to take an early and even stronger approach to mosquito control this year. Even if we do not see Zika in mosquitoes in Central Ohio, this approach will certainly help control the types of mosquitoes we tackle each year anyway. Preliminary plans will include:
 - Public education and awareness of where *Aedes* mosquitoes can be found and what residents can do to prevent mosquitoes.
 - An even more aggressive larviciding program to target *Aedes* mosquito breeding. This early intervention will keep these and any other type of mosquito from hatching and becoming an adult mosquito.
 - Increased surveillance including setting additional CDC Light traps and BG Sentinel traps throughout the area to monitor the *Aedes* mosquito population.
 - Plans to conduct immediate additional larvicide, breeding site reduction and daytime barrier treatment as necessary in the area where any human case is diagnosed.