

Zika Virus

When did Zika start?

Zika virus was first discovered in 1947.

Named after the Zika Forest in Uganda.



The first human cases of Zika Virus were detected in 1952!

First confirmed case was in Brazil in May 2015!

On February 1, 2016 the World Health Organization (WHO) declared Zika virus a Public Health Emergency



Symptoms

1. Fever
2. Rash
3. Joint Pain
4. Muscle Pain
5. Conjunctivitis (red eyes)
6. Headache



Zika is caused by *Aedes* species of mosquito.

They are active during the day and night!

The virus is often mild with symptoms only lasting a few days to a week!

How to prevent exposure to mosquito bites:

- Use insect repellent
- Avoid travel to areas known to have Zika
- Wear light colored long sleeve shirts and pants
- Use window and door screens to keep mosquitoes out
- Stay away from mosquito breeding sites (flower pots, water drains, ditches with standing water, uncovered rain catching containers and etc...)

If you suspect Zika call the Louisiana OPH Infectious Disease Epidemiology hotline: 1-800-256-2748

How is Zika spread?



-Zika is transmitted from people being bitten by mosquitoes that have the virus.

-Mosquitoes become infected when they feed off of someone who already has the virus. They can then spread Zika to other people.

-Mosquitoes lay their eggs in standing water in items such as buckets, bowls, animal dishes, flower pots and vases.

Make sure to remove all standing water near your home!



-Zika can be transmitted from a pregnant woman to her fetus during pregnancy.

-Zika virus can cause **microcephaly** in babies (a birth defect that causes the head to be small).



-Zika can be transmitted from an infected man to his sexual partners.

-Zika survives longer in semen than in blood.



-As of February 1, 2016, there have not been any confirmed blood transfusion transmission cases of Zika in the United States, but there have been multiple reports of blood transfusion transmission cases in Brazil.



-There has been one reported case of Zika Virus transmission through laboratory exposure in the U.S.



-People living in or traveling to countries where Zika virus is found are at risk for getting the disease.