



MISSISSIPPI STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

This is an official
MS Health Alert Network (HAN) Advisory

MESSAGE ID: MSHAN-20160209-00114-ADV (Health Advisory)
RECIPIENTS: All Physicians, Hospitals, ERs, Laboratories, and Healthcare providers – Statewide
DATE: Tuesday, February 09, 2016
SUBJECT: *Updated Zika Testing and Prevention Guidance for Mississippi*

Dear Colleagues,

The Zika virus outbreak continues to spread with recent ongoing transmission reported in Mexico and in many areas in Central and South America and the Caribbean (see www.cdc.gov/zika/geo/index.html for a list of countries/areas with ongoing Zika transmission). As of February 3, 2016, 35 travel associated cases, with no locally acquired vector-borne transmission, have been reported in U.S. states. **In Mississippi, no travel associated cases have been reported.**

Zika virus is primarily transmitted through the bite of infected *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes. Evidence is now suggesting an association between Zika virus infection in pregnancy and an increased risk of microcephaly and other abnormalities. Evidence also suggests that sexual transmission of Zika virus is possible and is of particular concern during pregnancy.

With the evolving situation, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has issued additional guidance for the prevention of and testing for Zika virus infection (see “Update: Interim Guidelines for Health Care Providers Caring for Pregnant Women and Women of Reproductive Age with Possible Zika Exposure” at http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/65/wr/mm6505e2er.htm?s_cid=mm6505e2er.htm_w and “Interim Guidelines for Prevention of Sexual Transmission of Zika Virus” at http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/65/wr/mm6505e1er.htm?s_cid=mm6505e1er.htm_w)

The Mississippi State Department of Health is releasing the following guidance for prevention, testing and reporting of Zika virus disease in Mississippi.

Prevention

- Men who travel to an area of active Zika virus transmission (<http://www.cdc.gov/zika/geo/index.html>) who have a pregnant partner should abstain from sexual activity or use condoms during sex for the duration of the pregnancy.
- Pregnant women in any trimester should consider postponing travel to the areas where Zika virus transmission is ongoing. If travel is necessary, pregnant women should follow mosquito exposure prevention measures.

- To prevent local human-to-mosquito-to-human transmission, any person with travel to an area with Zika virus transmission should protect themselves from mosquito exposures for two weeks after return from travel.

Testing Recommendations

Testing is recommended for persons with a history of travel to an area with Zika virus transmission who are in one of the following categories:

- Have two or more symptoms consistent with infection (acute onset of fever, maculopapular rash, arthralgia, or conjunctivitis) during or within 2 weeks of travel, **or**
- Any asymptomatic pregnant woman, between 2-12 weeks after return from travel.

Zika testing is not currently available through commercial laboratories. For patients meeting the above criteria, please contact the Mississippi State Department of Health Office of Epidemiology at (601) 576-7725 to arrange for Zika virus testing.

Reporting

Please call the MSDH Office of Epidemiology at 601-576-7725 (601-576-7740 after hours, weekends and holidays):

- To report suspected Zika virus disease in returning travelers, and
- To arrange for testing of both symptomatic travelers and asymptomatic pregnant women.

Alerting Message Specification Settings

Originating Agency:	Mississippi State Department of Health
Alerting Program:	MS Health Alert Network (MS HAN)
Message Identifier:	MSHAN-20160209-00114-ADV
Program (HAN) Type:	Health Advisory
Status (Type):	Actual ()
Message Type:	Alert
Reference:	MSHAN-00114
Severity:	Unknown
Acknowledgement:	No
Sensitive:	Not Sensitive
Message Expiration:	Undetermined
Urgency:	Undetermined
Delivery Time:	600 minutes

Definition of Alerting Vocabulary and Message Specification Settings

Originating Agency:	A unique identifier for the agency originating the alert.
Alerting Program:	The program sending the alert or engaging in alerts and communications using PHIN Communication and Alerting (PCA) as a vehicle for their delivery.
Message Identifier:	A unique alert identifier that is generated upon alert activation (MSHAN-yyymmdd-hhmm-TTT (ALT=Health Alert , ADV=Health Advisory , UPD=Health Update , MSG/INFO=Message/Info Service)).
Program (HAN) Type:	Categories of Health Alert Messages.
Health Alert:	Conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.
Health Advisory:	Provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.
Health Update:	Provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action.
Health Info Service:	Provides Message / Notification of general public health information; unlikely to require immediate action.
Status (Type):	
Actual:	Communication or alert refers to a live event
Exercise:	Designated recipients must respond to the communication or alert
Test:	Communication or alert is related to a technical, system test and should be disregarded
Message Type:	
Alert:	Indicates an original Alert
Update:	Indicates prior alert has been Updated and/or superseded
Cancel:	Indicates prior alert has been cancelled
Error:	Indicates prior alert has been retracted

Reference: For a communication or alert with a Message Type of “Update” or “Cancel”, this attribute contains the unique Message Identifier of the original communication or alert being updated or cancelled. “n/a” = Not Applicable.

Severity:

Extreme:	Extraordinary threat to life or property
Severe:	Significant threat to life or property
Moderate:	Possible threat to life or property
Minor:	Minimal threat to life or property
Unknown:	Unknown threat to life or property

Acknowledgement: Indicates whether an acknowledgement on the part of the recipient is required to confirm that the alert was received, and the timeframe in which a response is required (Yes or No).

Sensitive:

Sensitive:	Indicates the alert contains sensitive content
Not Sensitive:	Indicates non-sensitive content

Message Expiration: Undetermined.

Urgency: Undetermined. Responsive action should be taken immediately.

Delivery Time: Indicates the timeframe for delivery of the alert (15, 60, 1440, 4320 minutes (.25, 1, 24, 72 hours)).