



MISSISSIPPI STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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

**MESSAGE ID:** MSHAN-20160705-00123-ADV (Health Advisory)

**RECIPIENTS:** To all OBGYNs and Family Prac – Statewide

**DATE:** Tuesday, July 05, 2016

**SUBJECT:** *Preventing Zika virus infection in pregnancy*

Dear Colleague,

Preventing Zika virus infection in pregnancy and reducing the risk of microcephaly and other serious birth defects is a primary concern of the Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH). MSDH has developed the attached poster (in both English and Spanish) to promote Zika virus awareness among pregnant women and women who may become pregnant. A printable PDF version of the posters is also available at [http://msdh.ms.gov/msdhsite/\\_static/resources/6757.pdf](http://msdh.ms.gov/msdhsite/_static/resources/6757.pdf)

Please consider placing these posters in your clinic in areas that are visible to your patients.

**Recommendations for pregnant women:**

- **Pregnant women, or women planning to get pregnant, should not travel to areas with ongoing Zika virus transmission** (Countries and Territories with Active Zika Transmission: <http://www.cdc.gov/zika/geo/active-countries.html>).
- If pregnant women or women planning to get pregnant must travel, they are encouraged to talk to their obstetrician first, and strictly follow steps to avoid mosquito exposures during the trip.
- All pregnant women with a history of travel to a Zika endemic country should be tested for Zika virus infection upon return.
- Pregnant women should abstain from sex with any male partners who have traveled to areas with active Zika virus transmission **for the duration of the pregnancy** or should use condoms correctly and consistently with that partner.
- Any woman with possible Zika virus exposure (travel to areas with active disease transmission or exposure through sexual contact), **or** women who have been diagnosed with Zika virus infection, should wait at **least 8 weeks** after last exposure or **at least 8 weeks** after onset of symptoms before attempting conception.

Please visit the MSDH website at [www.healthymms.com/zika](http://www.healthymms.com/zika) for additional guidance for the prevention of Zika virus (including sexual transmission) and for testing recommendations. You may also call the Office of Epidemiology at 601-576-7725.

Regards,

Paul Byers, MD  
Deputy State Epidemiologist

## *Alerting Message Specification Settings*

<b>Originating Agency:</b>	Mississippi State Department of Health
<b>Alerting Program:</b>	MS Health Alert Network (MS HAN)
<b>Message Identifier:</b>	MSHAN-20160705-00123-ADV
<b>Program (HAN) Type:</b>	Health Advisory
<b>Status (Type):</b>	Actual ( )
<b>Message Type:</b>	Alert
<b>Reference:</b>	MSHAN-00123
<b>Severity:</b>	Unknown
<b>Acknowledgement:</b>	No
<b>Sensitive:</b>	Not Sensitive
<b>Message Expiration:</b>	Undetermined
<b>Urgency:</b>	Undetermined
<b>Delivery Time:</b>	600 minutes

## *Definition of Alerting Vocabulary and Message Specification Settings*

<b>Originating Agency:</b>	A unique identifier for the agency originating the alert.
<b>Alerting Program:</b>	The program sending the alert or engaging in alerts and communications using PHIN Communication and Alerting (PCA) as a vehicle for their delivery.
<b>Message Identifier:</b>	A unique alert identifier that is generated upon alert activation (MSHAN-yyymmdd-hhmm-TTT ( <b>ALT=Health Alert</b> , <b>ADV=Health Advisory</b> , <b>UPD=Health Update</b> , <b>MSG/INFO=Message/Info Service</b> )).
<b>Program (HAN) Type:</b>	Categories of Health Alert Messages.
<b>Health Alert:</b>	Conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.
<b>Health Advisory:</b>	Provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.
<b>Health Update:</b>	Provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action.
<b>Health Info Service:</b>	Provides Message / Notification of general public health information; unlikely to require immediate action.
<b>Status (Type):</b>	
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
<b>Message Type:</b>	
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)).