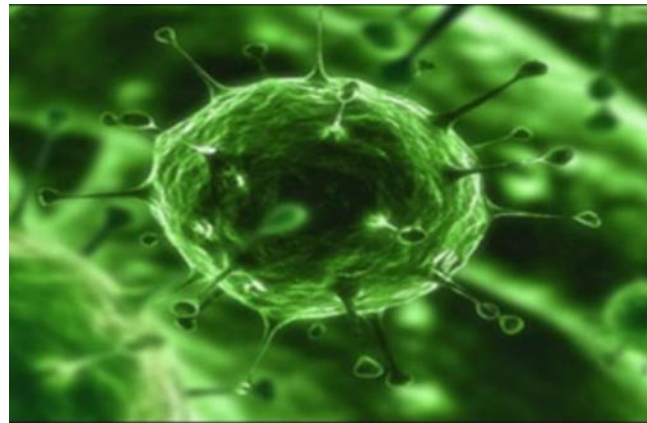




Zika Virus – Occupational Health and Safety Information for Researchers

2016



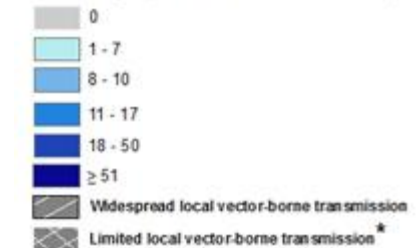
Zika Virus

- Flavivirus related to dengue.
 - Previously found in Africa, southern Asia and the Pacific Islands.
 - Current outbreak (late 2015-present) is in South America, Papua New Guinea, and Florida.



States and Territories Reporting Zika Virus Disease

Solid shading represents travel-associated cases only





Zika Virus

- Transmitted by mosquitoes that are active during the day.
- Only supportive treatment is available.



Symptoms

- Symptoms are usually mild, and only seen in 18% of cases
- Similar to influenza
 - Low-grade fever
 - Joint pain
 - Swollen joints
 - Headache
 - Rash
 - Fatigue, weakness





Potential High Risk Complication

- In adults, unconfirmed reports of increased incidence of Guillain-Barre syndrome (GBS) in previous outbreaks
 - Development of GBS may require co-infection with Zika and Dengue viruses
 - Paralysis
 - Loss of muscle function





Potential Reproductive Hazard

- Infection with Zika virus poses developmental hazard to fetuses exposed in utero
 - Data indicates Zika can cause microcephaly, other fetal brain abnormalities
- Risk of Sexual transmission
 - Zika virus persists in semen and other body fluids (e.g. urine, feces, saliva)
 - Confirmed male to female and female to male transmission
 - Emerg Infect Dis. 2011 May; 17(5): 880–882. doi: [10.3201/eid1705.101939](https://doi.org/10.3201/eid1705.101939)





Recommendations

- Personnel handling cultures or animals infected with Zika virus should be aware of the potential reproductive hazard for:
 - Women of childbearing age or who are or plan to become pregnant and/or whose partners plan to become pregnant
 - Potential transmission of infection from sexual activity

<http://www.cdc.gov/zika/hcproviders/clinicalguidance/sexualtransmission.html>



Recommendations

- Laboratories where Zika virus is in use should be posted with signage indicating use of a reproductive hazard
- Personnel with questions or concerns are encouraged to contact Employee Health Services and/or their personal physician
- Any potential exposure must be reported immediately to Employee Health Services



Additional Resources

- CDC Zika Virus Resources:
<http://www.cdc.gov/zika/index.html>



CAUTION

Zika virus in use

Potential reproductive hazard

Questions: Contact Principal Investigator

PI Name:

PI Phone Number:

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