



Orange County

ATTENTION

Steven M. Neuhaus
County Executive

PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE

Eli N. Avila, MD, JD, MPH, FCLM
Commissioner of Health

January 22, 2016

PLEASE DISTRIBUTE TO PEDIATRIC, FAMILY PRACTICE, PRIMARY CARE, EMERGENCY ROOM, INTERNAL MEDICINE, INFECTIOUS DISEASE, OB/GYN AND AMBULATORY CARE STAFF.

PUBLIC HEALTH ALERT #1 **ZIKA VIRUS HEALTH ADVISORY**

The CDC has recently has issued a Level 2 Travel Advisory and a Health Advisory on Recognizing, Managing, and Reporting Zika Virus Infections in Returning Travelers from Central America, South America, the Caribbean, and Mexico.

- Travel Advisory Summary:
 - Pregnant women should consider postponing travel to any area where Zika virus transmission is ongoing.
 - Pregnant women and women trying to become pregnant who do travel to one of these areas should talk to their healthcare providers first and strictly follow steps to avoid mosquito bites.
- Signs and Symptoms of Zika virus include:
 - Fever, rash, joint pain, or conjunctivitis
 - About 1 in 5 people become ill; with mild symptoms lasting several days to a week
- Testing:
 - Testing can only be done at select laboratories, including NYSDOH's Wadsworth Center. Diagnosis of Zika virus is based on both molecular tests and serology.
 - Hospitals and providers **must** contact the Orange County Department of Health Nursing Division at 845-291-2330 prior to sending samples to Wadsworth.
 - Testing will only be considered for patients who present with compatible illness (as described above) and a history of travel to a Zika-affected country within 2 weeks of illness onset.
 - Testing will also be available for infants diagnosed with microcephaly whose mothers were pregnant while in an area with ongoing Zika virus transmission since the outbreak began in 2015. Testing is not available for asymptomatic patients or pregnant woman with a history of travel to an affected area.

- Treatment:
 - There is no specific anti-viral treatment for Zika. Supportive treatment should be provided as indicated.

- Prevention:
 - Patients should be instructed in personal protection for all mosquito-borne diseases including: Repellents containing DEET, picaridin, IR3535, and some oil of lemon eucalyptus and para-menthane-diol products provide long lasting protection; and when weather permits, wear long-sleeved shirts and long pants.

- For additional information – visit <http://www.cdc.gov/zika/index.html> or www.orangecountygov.com/health in the Health Professional’s Corner for links to CDC’s complete health advisory and interim clinical guidance for pregnant women

Please report any suspect cases to Orange County Department of Health at 845-291-2330