



Louisiana State University Agricultural Center

Zika is a virus that is transmitted through the bite of an infected mosquito. It is similar to many other mosquito-borne viruses, such as dengue, yellow fever, and West Nile virus. Zika virus was first discovered in Africa (Uganda) in 1947. In May of 2015, it was detected in the Americas for the first time. Since then, it has contributed to over a million suspect cases in over 32 countries in Central, North, and South America.

Local versus imported?

Imported cases are those that are acquired during travel to an area where the virus is actively circulating. A case that is imported into Louisiana does not mean that virus activity is occurring here. Local cases occur when the virus is picked up locally. To date, there have been no local cases of Zika virus in Louisiana.

What are symptoms of Zika?

The majority of individuals (about 80%) that become infected will not show any symptoms. Symptoms are generally mild, and includes fever, joint pain, conjunctivitis, and rash. Neurological complications or death are extremely rare. There is no specific treatment for Zika.

If you are concerned that you may have Zika, please contact your physician. It is also extremely important to protect yourself from mosquitoes, to prevent transmission to other individuals.

What is the concern?

The current concern regarding Zika virus is the link between infection during pregnancy, and having a child borne with microcephaly (reduced brain size). The virus has also been linked to Guillain-Barre syndrome, a condition in which the immune system attacks the peripheral nerves.

If you are pregnant or plan on becoming pregnant, you should consult the CDC Zika webpage for more information: www.cdc.gov/zika/pregnancy

How is the virus transmitted?

The most common way that the Zika virus is transmitted is through the bite of an infected mosquito. Mosquitoes (in particular container mosquitoes) are capable of picking up virus from an infected person, and passing it to an uninfected person. People may also be infected through sexual contact, or from mother to fetus.

What are container mosquitoes?

Container mosquitoes, such as the Asian tiger mosquito and the yellow fever mosquito are the two most important vectors of Zika virus that occur in our area. These mosquitoes lay eggs in backyard containers (buckets, trash cans, tires, bottles, etc). All immature stages are spent in water. Adult container mosquitoes will bite at all times of the day, and aggressively bite humans and domestic animals.

What can I do to protect myself and my family?

1. Create barriers between you and mosquitoes

Create barriers indoors by making sure window and door screens are repaired, and have at least 22 meshes per linear inch. Container mosquitoes are often smaller than other species and can squeeze through larger mesh sizes. Outdoors, wear long sleeves and long pants that are lightly colored. Another trick is to wear two layers, to further prevent bites through clothing.

2. Select EPA registered repellents, and apply using label instructions

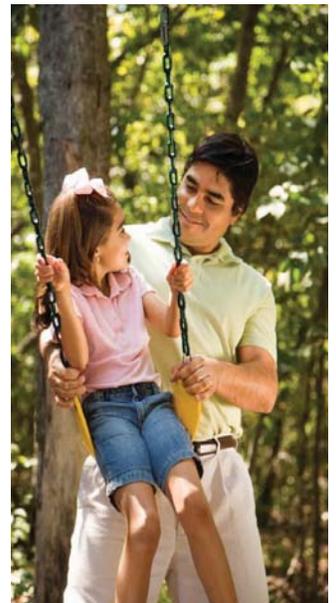
The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recommends repellent products that contain active ingredients which have been registered with the EPA. The EPA evaluates products for efficacy towards mosquitoes, and effects on humans. Always apply according to label instructions.

3. Reduce mosquitoes in your backyard

Container mosquitoes lay eggs in backyard containers, close to where people live. These species usually do not fly far from where they lived as immatures. When people are bitten by these mosquitoes, it usually means that the source of standing water is nearby. Use the Quick Control Chart below to help reduce mosquitoes in your backyard.

4. Support your local mosquito control program

Many mosquito control programs in Louisiana use an integrated mosquito management approach, meaning they use multiple control strategies that have the smallest possible impacts on the environment as possible. These great programs have a deep understanding of biology, and survey the environment for mosquitoes before making appropriate control decisions.



Quick Control Guide

Habitat Type	How to Correct
Buckets and watering cans	Store indoors, or turn over when not in use
Old tires	Recycle or store indoors
Bird baths Potted plants with saucers	Change water weekly
Trash (bottles, cans)	Clean up trash, and check yard weekly
Tarps	Make sure they do not collect water
Children's toys	Store indoors, or in a way that does not collect water
Trash cans	Cover, and drill holes in the bottom
Roof gutters and extensions	Keep clear of debris. Make sure extensions angle downward and do not collect water

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