

Dutchess County Department of Behavioral & Community Health

PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE*

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Marcus J. Molinaro
County Executive



Margaret Hirst, LCSW-R
Acting Commissioner

ZIKA VIRUS: Spring 2017 Update and Patient Guidance

Monday, April 10, 2017 - 10 am

With spring travel season underway, The Dutchess County Department of Behavioral & Community Health (DBCH) reminds providers to continue to educate patients regarding travel guidance related to the ongoing Zika virus pandemic.

CDC currently recommends that pregnant women not travel to any areas presenting risk for Zika virus infection including:

- areas where the virus has been newly introduced or reintroduced and local mosquito-borne transmission is ongoing;
- areas where the virus was present before 2015 (endemic) and there is no evidence transmission has stopped;
- areas where the virus is likely to be circulating but has not been documented.

To identify areas with risk, patients and providers should consult the interactive world map of areas with Zika risk found at <https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/page/world-map-areas-with-zika>

DBCH also reminds providers to counsel patients on prevention of sexual transmission and vertical transmission of Zika virus based on the following guidance:

- Men with possible Zika virus exposure should delay pregnancy conception and use barriers such as condoms or abstain from sex for **at least six months** after the last possible Zika exposure.
- Women with possible Zika virus exposure should delay pregnancy conception and use barriers such as condoms or abstain from sex for **at least eight weeks** after the last possible Zika exposure.
- Pregnant women whose partners have had a possible Zika virus exposure should use a barrier such as a condom or abstain from sex for the duration of the pregnancy.

This advisory is based on the latest CDC update: <https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2017/s0310-zika-travel-guidance.html>. For additional questions, please call the Department's Communicable Disease Control Division at (845) 486-3402 or visit us online at DutchessNY.gov/providers.

***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.

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85 Civic Center Plaza - Suite 106, Poughkeepsie NY 12601 • (845) 486-3400 • Fax (845) 486-3447 • TTY (845) 486-3417