

Dutchess County Department of Behavioral & Community Health

PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY*

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ZIKA VIRUS: CDC & NYSDOH Health Advisories Released **Wednesday, January 20, 2016 - 3pm**

Dutchess County Department of Behavioral & Community Health Advises:

- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has received reports of Zika Virus infections in travelers returning to the United States.
- [Zika virus](#) infection should be considered in patients with acute onset of fever, maculopapular rash, arthralgia, or conjunctivitis who traveled to areas with ongoing transmission in the two weeks prior to illness onset.
- Prenatal infection has been linked to microcephaly and other serious sequela. Please view the [Interim Guidelines for Pregnant Women During a Zika Virus](#) Outbreak (MMWR - 01/19/2016) for patients considering travel to affected areas.
- Dutchess County hospitals and providers **must report suspect cases** of Zika virus and all other arboviral disease. Submission of clinical specimens for Zika virus detection must be arranged through the Department of Behavioral & Community Health - Communicable Disease Control Division **(845) 486-3402**.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION FROM THE CDC ADVISORY:

CDC Updates Regarding Zika Virus situation, including distribution maps may be found at: <http://www.cdc.gov/zika/> and [Pan American Health Organization](#) (listing of countries and territories with Zika transmissions reported).

The CDC has issued a "[Recognizing, Managing, and Reporting Zika Virus Infections in Returning Travelers from Central America, South America, the Caribbean, and Mexico](#)" Health Advisory, and a [Level 2 Travel Notice](#) urging travelers to practice enhanced precautions while traveling.

Clinical disease usually is mild. No specific antiviral treatment is available for Zika virus disease. Treatment is generally supportive including rest, fluids, and use of analgesics and antipyretics.

During the current outbreak in Brazil, there has been epidemiologic evidence and mounting biologic evidence that Zika virus infection in pregnant women can result in fetal losses and infants born with microcephaly. **Until more is known and out of an abundance of caution, 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 these areas should talk to their doctors or other healthcare providers first and strictly follow steps to avoid mosquito bites during the trip.

Local transmission of Zika virus has not been documented in the continental United States. With the recent outbreaks in the Americas, the number of Zika virus disease cases among travelers visiting or returning to the United States likely will increase. These imported cases may result in local spread of the virus.

If you have any questions, please contact the Departments Communicable Disease Control Division at (845) 486-3402.

***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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