

Dutchess County Department of Behavioral & Community Health

PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY*

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ZIKA VIRUS: GUIDANCE FOR THE PREVENTION OF TRANSMISSION *Pregnancy, Travel, and Sexual Transmission* Friday, April 1, 2016 - 10 am

Providers are reminded to screen for risk of Zika exposure through travel or sexual contact in all pregnant patients and patients presenting with symptoms consistent with Zika infection.

Please advise patients:

- **If Pregnant**, to avoid travel to countries with active mosquito-borne transmission of Zika virus: cdc.gov/zika/geo/
- **If Pregnant**, to abstain from sex or use condoms consistently for the duration of their pregnancy if they have sexual partners who have traveled to an affected area.
- **To Prevent Sexual Transmission, men with recent travel history to affected areas** should use condoms for 8 weeks if asymptomatic; or for 6 months if diagnosed with or had symptoms consistent with Zika infection.
- **Desiring Pregnancy with recent travel history to affected areas** to delay conception at least 8 weeks or at least 6 months if the man was diagnosed with or had symptoms consistent with Zika infection.
- NYS Department of Health has expanded Zika virus testing criteria to include pregnant women who had unprotected sex during pregnancy with a partner who traveled to a Zika-affected area. **To report suspected cases of Zika virus and to arrange for testing, please call** the Department of Behavioral & Community Health - Communicable Disease Control Division **(845) 486-3402**.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

While clinical disease usually is mild, Zika virus infection during pregnancy has been linked to adverse pregnancy and birth outcomes.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention updated its guidance regarding [sexual transmission](#) and [possible exposure of Zika virus to women of reproductive age](#). These documents may also be viewed at cdc.gov/mmwr or at cdc.gov/zika, where the "What's New" section provides these documents along with recommendations for preconception, pregnancy, and sexual activity.

Local transmission of Zika virus through a mosquito bite has not been documented in the continental United States. Individuals who cannot avoid travel to Zika-affected areas should visit the CDC's "Mosquito Bite Prevention For Travelers" Tip Sheet at http://www.cdc.gov/chikungunya/pdfs/fs_mosquito_bite_prevention_travelers.pdf

If you have any questions, please contact the Department's 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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