



What is Zika virus (Zika)?

- Zika is a disease caused by the Zika virus that is spread to people mainly from the bite of an infected *Aedes* species mosquito. About one in five people infected with Zika will get sick. Most people do not realize they have been infected. Zika virus usually remains in the blood of an infected person for about a week but can be found longer in some individuals.

How is it spread?

- Mainly through the bite of an infected *Aedes* mosquito
- Mosquitos become infected when they feed on a person already infected with the virus
- May occur from a pregnant mother to her baby during pregnancy or around the time of birth
- Spread through blood transfusions and sexual contact have been reported

What are symptoms that could occur?

- Fever
- Joint Pain
- Conjunctivitis (red eyes)
- Headache
- Muscle pain
- Rash

Symptoms normally begin two to seven days after being bitten by an infected mosquito.

How is it diagnosed and treated?

- If you have recently travelled to areas with local Zika transmission and you develop symptoms, consult a healthcare provider
- Testing is coordinated through the Genesee County Health Department, MDHHS, and CDC
- There is no medication to treat Zika virus infections. Instead, symptoms are treated through:
 - Plenty of rest
 - Drink fluids to prevent dehydration
 - Talk to your doctor before taking any medications

How can Zika virus be prevented?

- There is no vaccine to prevent Zika
- Protect yourself and your family from mosquito bites:
 - Use Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)-registered insect repellent (follow product label instructions)
 - Wear protective clothing such as long-sleeved shirts and pants
 - Avoid areas where mosquitos may be present
 - Maintain window and door screens to keep mosquitos out of buildings.
 - Get rid of mosquito breeding sites by removing standing water in and around your home

Should the sick individual be isolated?

- No.

Are there reporting requirements?

- Notify the Genesee County Health Department of suspected cases at **257-1017** to coordinate testing of an individual

If I have any other questions, whom can I contact?

- Call the Genesee County Health Department, 257-1017