
PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY
UPDATED GUIDANCE ON ZIKA VIRUS
FEBRUARY 11, 2016

Situation Update

As of February 10, 2016, no Zika virus infections have been identified in Riverside County. The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) has reported 1 preliminary positive case of Zika virus for 2016, in a California resident with travel to Central America. Six confirmed cases with symptom onset from 2013-2015 have been previously reported. There has been no local transmission of Zika virus in California to date and the risk of Zika virus transmission in California remains low. For information on countries where Zika virus is circulating, please see the CDC website at www.cdc.gov/Zika.

Interim Guidelines for Prevention of Sexual Transmission of Zika Virus

The interim guidelines for prevention of sexual transmission state that sexual transmission of Zika virus is possible based on reports of two cases of sexual transmission and one case of Zika virus detection in semen. In all three cases men, who traveled to areas with Zika transmission experienced symptoms of Zika infection before or shortly after transmitting the virus to their partners or testing positive for Zika virus in semen. It is not known whether infected men who never develop symptoms can transmit Zika virus to their sex partners.

CDC recommends that “men who reside in or have traveled to an area of active Zika virus transmission who have a pregnant partner should abstain from sexual activity or consistently and correctly use condoms during sex for the duration of the pregnancy.” Men with non-pregnant sex partners “who reside in or have traveled to an area of active Zika virus transmission who are concerned about sexual transmission of Zika virus might consider using condoms consistently and correctly during sex or abstaining from sexual activity.” The current understanding of genitourinary shedding of Zika virus is limited to one case report. There are insufficient data on the use of laboratory testing to assess the risk of sexual transmission and the new interim guidance states that “at this time, testing of men for the purpose of assessing risk for sexual transmission is not recommended.”

The interim guidelines are located at:

http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/65/wr/mm6505e1er.htm?s_cid=mm6505e1er_e

Update: Interim Guidelines for Health Care Providers Caring for Pregnant Women and Women of Reproductive Age with Possible Zika Virus Exposure – U.S. 2016

Women who experience symptoms consistent with Zika virus disease during travel to, or within 14 days after returning from, an area with Zika virus transmission should be evaluated for Zika virus infection. Testing for Zika virus RNA by polymerase chain reaction (PCR) should be done within 7 days of symptom onset if possible. Serologic testing can be done on specimens collected 4 or more days after symptom onset.

Women who have not experienced symptoms can be offered serologic testing between 2-12 weeks after their return. Interpretation of serologic results among asymptomatic pregnant women is complex and should be done in consultation with public health or other experts.

The interim guidelines are located at:

http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/65/wr/mm6505e2er.htm?s_cid=mm6505e2er_e

Disease Reporting

Suspected and confirmed cases of Zika, Chikungunya and Dengue should be reported to Disease Control by calling (951) 358-5107 during regular business hours or (951) 782-7974 after hours for the Public Health duty officer. Thus far, no locally acquired human cases of Chikungunya or Dengue have been reported in Riverside County.

Laboratory Testing for Zika Virus

Suspected Zika cases must be reported to Disease Control prior to submitting specimens to the Public Health laboratory. Hospital laboratories should coordinate with the Infection Preventionist on reporting suspected cases. Patients must meet the clinical and travel history criteria to be approved for Zika testing. A quick sheet on Zika testing and the required CDC DASH form are located at www.rivco-diseasecontrol.org. Specimens will also be tested for Chikungunya and Dengue. Questions on specimen collection and submission should be directed to Megan Crumpler, PH Laboratory Director at (951)358-5070.

Additional information is available at:

<http://www.rivco-diseasecontrol.org/>

<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/HealthInfo/discond/Pages/Zika.aspx>

<http://www.cdc.gov/zika/index.html>

