



STATE OF MARYLAND

DHMH

Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

Larry Hogan, Governor - Boyd Rutherford, Lt. Governor - Van Mitchell, Secretary

October 3, 2016

Dear Colleague,

Since January 2016, we have identified 101 cases of lab-confirmed Zika virus infection in travelers returning to Maryland from Zika endemic areas, including Miami, Florida. To date, we have not identified any cases of locally transmitted mosquito-borne Zika virus infections in Maryland.

Today, we are writing to notify you of several new documents recently released by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) that contain important Zika-related information, which your patients may ask you about:

1) **MMWR publication: Update: Interim Guidance for Preconception Counseling and Prevention of Sexual Transmission of Zika Virus for Persons with Possible Zika Virus Exposure—United States, September 2016**

CDC has updated its interim guidance for preconception counseling and prevention of sexual transmission of Zika. This guidance provides updated recommendations on the timing of pregnancy for women and men with possible Zika virus exposure who are considering pregnancy. This guidance also provides updated recommendations on preventing sexual transmission of Zika virus, including recommendations for pregnant women as well as for people who are not pregnant and not planning to become pregnant.

Importantly, CDC now recommends that men with possible Zika virus exposure, regardless of symptom status, wait at least 6 months from symptom onset (if symptomatic) or last possible exposure (if asymptomatic) before attempting conception with their partner.

2) **New Zika virus special travel considerations for 11 Southeast Asian countries**

CDC posted Zika virus-related special travel considerations for 11 Southeast Asian countries. CDC now recommends that pregnant women should consider postponing nonessential travel to these countries because of the uncertain risk of Zika virus infection. CDC is issuing these special travel considerations so that travelers, especially pregnant women, can make informed decisions about their travel and their health.

The countries included in these considerations are Brunei, Burma (Myanmar), Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Maldives, Philippines, Thailand, Timor-Leste (East Timor), and Vietnam.

3) **MMWR Publication: Demographics and Clinical Characteristics of Children Aged 0–17 Years with Zika Virus Disease Acquired Postnatally — U.S. States, January 2015–July 2016**

Recent outbreaks of Zika virus disease in the Americas and the diagnosis of travel-associated Zika virus disease among US children have prompted concerns about the clinical manifestations and previously unrecognized consequences of postnatally acquired Zika virus disease in children. There are few published reports of postnatally acquired Zika virus disease among children, so information about childhood illness has been limited. This series in the US states describes characteristics and symptoms of 158 children with postnatally acquired, travel-associated Zika virus disease.

4) **HAN-00396: CDC Updates Guidance for Travel and Testing of Pregnant Women and Women of Reproductive Age for Zika Virus Infection Related to the Ongoing Investigation of Local Mosquito-borne Zika Virus Transmission in Miami-Dade County, Florida**

The Florida Department of Health has determined that active Zika virus transmission is no longer ongoing in the one-square-mile area of Wynwood. As of September 19, 2016, CDC no longer recommends that pregnant women avoid travel to the Wynwood area. However, pregnant women and partners of pregnant women who are concerned about potential Zika virus exposure may consider postponing nonessential travel to all parts of Miami-Dade County, including areas without identified active transmission.

The Florida Department of Health continues to investigate active Zika virus transmission in South Florida. Investigation has shown an expanded area of active transmission in Miami Beach, now measuring 4.5 square miles, which includes the original 1.5-square-mile area. Detailed recommendations regarding travel to this area for pregnant women and their partners are outlined in this document.

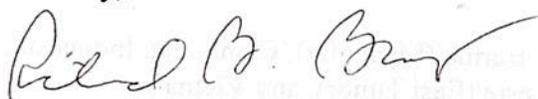
5) **MMWR Publication: Preliminary Findings from an Investigation of Zika Virus Infection in a Patient with No Known Risk Factors — Utah, 2016**

In July 2016, a patient in Utah with no known risk factors for Zika virus tested positive for the virus. The patient had provided care to an elderly man who died from complications due to Zika virus disease. This report describes the investigative process for evaluating this case, including an epidemiologic evaluation of family contacts, a healthcare worker serosurvey, a community serosurvey, and vector surveillance efforts.

We continue to advise all Maryland residents to follow recommendations to avoid mosquito bites and to protect themselves from sexually transmitted infections, including Zika virus, by using condoms or other barrier methods during sex. We continue to encourage Maryland providers to request testing for Maryland residents with possible Zika virus exposures, including travelers returning from Southeast Asia and Miami Beach, Florida, according to previously released guidance documents.

Please continue to contact the DHMH Zika Team at (410) 767-6700 with any questions or concerns. We appreciate your attention to this evolving and important matter.

Sincerely,



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