

Keep the yard clean!

- Keeping your yard clean and in shape, getting rid of debris or things stored outside that can hold water, or adjusting them so that they no longer hold water.
- Maintain the vegetation in your yard — keep the grass mowed and bushes trimmed, with adequate air flow. These measures will make the space around your home less hospitable to mosquitoes.

Inside the home, the CDC recommends making sure you have screens on windows and doors that aren't torn in any way. Wearing protective clothing, using insect repellents, and keeping your house cool with air conditioning also helps.

- To minimize Zika's risks, measures need to be implemented soon. Currently, about 22.7 million people live in humid areas where mosquitoes can be found. By the time the summer rolls around, as many as 200 million Americans could be within range of mosquitoes that can carry the Zika virus.



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Now is the time to educate yourself, family & friends about Zika and mosquitoes



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Nuisance News!™



Fact Sheet



The time to treat is NOW!

There are no approved vaccines or treatments for Zika, which has been reported to cause severe birth defect. Experts say the best way to prevent outbreaks is to control the mosquito populations that spread the virus.

Getting a game plan together....

Zika was just officially labeled a “nationally notifiable disease” — a designation the CDC gives to serious diseases. This step hopefully will allow better tracking and surveillance in the future, helping public health officials coordinate their responses and have a more precise sense of where people with Zika are living and where local outbreaks are likely to happen.



Zika is carried by a specific type of mosquito called *Aedes aegypti*, which spreads the disease through bites. This mosquito, with distinctive white markings on its body, is remarkably effective at carrying viruses — it’s also the primary vector of the yellow fever, dengue, and chikungunya viruses. There’s some experimental evidence suggesting the Asian tiger mosquito (*Aedes albopictus*) can transmit the virus, too.

Public health officials are calling on homeowners to help control mosquitoes this summer by cleaning up trash and other man-made containers that can collect rain water, where the insects breed.

It only takes a teaspoon of water in which a female will lay their egg. She will lay eggs in almost anything: a bottle cap, a candy wrapper, the folds of a plastic tarp, discarded tires, children’s toys, the seat of a lawn mower, etc.

She will cement her eggs just above the water line, with a substance that keeps them from easily washing off. Eggs can survive months of drought, then hatch after the first rain.

The only way to get rid of the eggs is to scrub them off with a brush.

The *Aedes aegypti* prefers to rest under beds, inside closets or beneath patio furniture. It may fly only a few feet in its lifetime, emerging from its hiding place only to nip its victim on the legs, then quickly fluttering back to safety.

As a homeowner, we are in the perfect position to control the species that primarily spreads Zika. *Aedes aegypti* prefers to live inside the home. We all need to do our part and inform the neighbors around us that may not realize how dangerous the *Aedes aegypti* might be.



Remove standing water in....

- Vases
- Pet water bowls
- Flowerpot saucers
- Discarded tires
- Buckets
- Pool covers
- Birdbaths
- Trash cans and rain barrels



These actions can help reduce the number of mosquitoes around areas where we live.

Change water in birdbaths at least once a week.

Keep pet water dishes changed regularly and kept in a cool location.

Walk around your yard once a week to see if you have any unknown containers, lids or water filled holes.

Pregnant women should be especially careful to

avoid mosquito bites. Although the Zika virus typically causes only mild symptoms, such as fever and red eye, outbreaks in Brazil have coincided with a marked increase in microcephaly – a disorder that causes an unusually small head size in newborns. Women planning to travel to areas where Zika is circulating should consult a healthcare provider before traveling and upon return.



The decision to defer pregnancy amidst the regional threat of the virus remains an individual decision that should be made between a woman, her partner and her healthcare provider.

In recent days, two Latin American countries - El Salvador and Colombia - recommended that women delay pregnancy due to the virus. Colombia has reported at least 890 cases of microcephaly and proposed that women avoid getting pregnant for the next six to eight months; while in El Salvador, officials recommended a two year halt on pregnancy.

The WHO had confirmed that the mosquito borne illness had spread to as many as 23 countries in the U.S. resulting in nearly 5,000 cases of microcephaly in babies.

WHO scientists estimate that there could be three to four million Zika infections in the U. S. over the next year.

The United States Center for Disease Control asked pregnant women - at any stage of gestation - to postpone travel to destinations in Latin America and the Caribbean that have the virus.

Zika has been reported in Barbados, Haiti, the Dominican Republic, Mexico, and the United States, among other countries.