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# OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS

## St. Clair County Health Department

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SCCHD-002

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TO: St. Clair County Healthcare Providers, Hospital ICPs, Emergency Departments, ED Physicians, OB/GYN Physicians

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### ZIKA VIRUS INFECTION

Zika virus is a mosquito-borne flavivirus. As of January 2016, local transmission has been identified in at least 14 countries or territories in the Americas, including Puerto Rico. Local transmission of Zika has not been documented in the continental United States. The number of Zika virus disease cases among travelers visiting or returning to the United States likely will increase. These imported cases may result in local spread of the virus which means human-to-mosquito-to-human spread of the virus. There is no vaccine to prevent or specific medication to treat Zika virus disease. Treatment is supportive.

#### Characteristic Clinical Findings:

- Acute onset of fever, maculopapular rash, joint pain, and conjunctivitis.
- Clinical illness usually is mild with symptoms lasting for several days to a week.
- Severe disease requiring hospitalization is uncommon and deaths are rare.

#### Recommendations:

- Zika virus infection should be considered in patients with acute onset of fever, maculopapular rash, arthralgia, or conjunctivitis who traveled to areas with ongoing transmission in the two weeks prior to onset of illness.
- Patients with suspected Zika virus infection should also be evaluated and managed for possible dengue or chikungunya virus infection.
- All travelers should take steps to avoid mosquito bites to prevent Zika virus infection and other mosquito-borne diseases.
- Until more is known and out an abundance of caution, pregnant women should consider postponing travel to any area where Zika virus transmission is ongoing. If travel must take place strict steps must be followed to avoid mosquito bites during the trip.
- Fetuses and infants of women infected with Zika virus during pregnancy should be evaluated for possible congenital infection and neurologic abnormalities.
- Report suspected Zika virus disease to St. Clair County Health Department (SCCHD) to facilitate diagnosis and to mitigate the risk of local transmission.

Call SCCHD with questions or to report suspect or actual cases (810) 987-5300.