

U.S. TRAVEL ASSOCIATION

- The Zika virus is a disease primarily spread to people through mosquito bites. Most persons infected with the Zika virus do not become ill.
- Historically, documented symptoms of Zika are usually mild; however, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has issued reports that indicate Zika may be linked to a broader array of serious birth defects in babies of mothers who were infected with the virus while pregnant.
- Additionally, CDC officials in April confirmed there is evidence that Zika may cause other varieties of fetal brain damage.
- The World Health Organization (WHO) has declared the current Zika virus epidemic a public health emergency of international concern. However, though the WHO in April strongly advised pregnant women not to travel to areas with ongoing outbreaks of Zika virus, the organization has publicly cautioned against instituting travel or trade bans in response to the virus.
 - “The committee found no public health justification for restrictions on travel or trade to prevent the spread of Zika virus.” – WHO Director-General Dr. Margaret Chan (Feb. 1, 2016)
- CDC has issued a travel advisory for people traveling to regions where Zika virus transmission is ongoing and is advising pregnant women to avoid traveling to affected countries in the Caribbean, South and Central America, Mexico and the Pacific Islands.
- In the United States, CDC is coordinating risk-based preparedness and response guidance for states, as well as communications to help communities prepare.
- On July 29, 2016, the CDC was informed by the state of Florida that Zika virus infections in just over a dozen people were likely caused by bites of local mosquitoes. The cases are likely the first known occurrence of local mosquito-borne Zika virus transmissions in the continental U.S.
- State officials in Florida responded rapidly with mosquito control measures and a community-wide search for additional Zika cases.
- On August 1, The CDC issued a travel notice specific to women who are pregnant or couples thinking of becoming pregnant to avoid unnecessary travel to the 1-square-mile section of the Wynwood neighborhood north of downtown Miami.
- The CDC then issued guidance for a 1.5-square-mile section of South Miami Beach on August 19 which was expanded on September 17 to a 4.5-square mile area that included areas of North Miami Beach.
- On September 19, 2016, the CDC released updated Zika guidance for Wynwood because no new cases of locally transmitted virus have been reported there since early August. The CDC's travel advisory remains in effect for the state's other active zone of transmission, Miami Beach.

- At the end of September, Congress passed a government funding bill that included a measure to allocate \$1.1 billion to help fight the Zika virus.
- In October, Florida announced a new area of mosquito-borne spread of Zika in an additional 1-square-mile area of Little River in Miami-Dade County. As reports continued concerning local spread of Zika virus in Miami-Dade County, the CDC updated its travel and testing guidance to apply recommendations to all of Miami-Dade County.
 - **Zika active transmission area (red area):** A geographic area where local, state, and CDC officials have determined that the intensity of Zika virus transmission presents a significant risk to pregnant women. The intensity of Zika virus transmission is determined by several factors, including geographic distribution of cases, number of cases identified, known or suspected links between cases and population density.
 - **Zika cautionary area (yellow area):** A geographic area where local transmission has been identified, but evidence is lacking that the intensity of transmission is comparable to that in a red area. Although the specific level of risk in yellow areas is unknown, pregnant women are still considered to be at risk. Also, areas adjacent or close to red areas may have a greater likelihood of active spread of Zika virus and are considered to pose a risk to pregnant women.
- As of December 9, Miami-Dade County is designated a yellow area and there are no areas in the U.S. designated red.