

## Zika Virus Update:

On February 1, 2016, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared outbreaks of microcephaly and other neurologic abnormalities that may be linked to the Zika virus as a "public health emergency of international concern". This was in follow up to the travel alert issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on January 15, 2016, to highlight countries where Zika virus is prevalent.

Zika Virus is a mosquito-borne virus transmitted via mosquito bites. It is estimated that 80 percent of those infected with Zika virus are without symptoms. Symptomatic disease is usually mild and symptoms include fever, rash, joint pain, and conjunctivitis (red eyes). Currently, there is no vaccine or other preventative medication for Zika virus.

Recently there have been several documented cases of Zika virus in infants born with microcephaly in Brazil. This has warranted the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) to issue a travel alert to regions with Zika virus outbreaks, including parts of South America, Central America, Mexico, the Caribbean including the US Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico, Samoa, and Cape Verde.

**Women who are pregnant or trying to become pregnant are advised to postpone travel to areas with Zika virus transmission.**

**Travelers can best limit their exposure to Zika by taking precautions to prevent mosquito bites. Travelers should regularly review the travel alert for updates as more countries are likely to be added to the list.**

If you are concerned about a risk of exposure to Zika related to upcoming or past travel to high risk areas, please contact your primary health care provider.

To date, there have been no local cases of Zika virus, nor any originating in the continental United States, but there have been some cases among returning travelers. According to the CDC, with the recent outbreaks and the number of cases increasing among travelers returning the United States, it is difficult to determine how widely the virus will spread. This information is being communicated to students and faculty choosing to study/travel abroad to these high risk areas.

For more information, see the following websites:

CDC- <http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/page/zika-travel-information>

WHO- <http://www.who.int/mediacentre/news/statements/2016/1st-emergency-committee-zika/en/>

SDDOH- <http://news.sd.gov/newsitem.aspx?id=19806>

Put our web link here:



SDSU Student Health Clinic and Counseling Services