

## ZIKA VIRUS DISEASE

Zika virus is transmitted through the bite of infected mosquitoes (mainly *Aedes aegypti* and *Aedes albopictus*). The virus can be passed from an infected pregnant woman to her fetus during pregnancy or at delivery which may cause serious birth defects (microcephaly) and developmental delays. Zika virus can also be transmitted through sex and blood transfusions.

About 80 percent of people infected with the Zika virus do not become ill. Illness is generally mild and typically lasts several days to a week. The most common symptoms of Zika virus disease are fever, rash, joint pain, and red eyes.

No vaccine or treatment for Zika virus infection is available currently. Preventive measures include protection from mosquito bites, eradication of mosquitoes and their breeding sites, and safe sex.

There were four cases of Zika in Brazos County in 2016 and one case in 2017. They were all travel related. As at September 30, there has been no case of Zika in 2018.

The Brazos County Health District's response to Zika consists of:

1. Educating the public and medical providers about Zika virus risks, transmission, and prevention strategies, particularly in areas with large populations of immigrants from areas with ongoing Zika virus transmission, highly populated areas and areas with high levels of poverty.
2. Identifying and diagnosing suspected cases.
3. Monitoring pregnant women with Zika virus infection and their fetuses and infants.
4. Detecting local mosquito-borne transmission through both human and mosquito surveillance.
5. Facilitating mosquito (*Aedes* species) control measures such as eradication of mosquito breeding sites and the use of larvicides and adulticides.

For questions and more information, please contact the Brazos County Health District at **979-361-4440**

Further information on Zika Virus Disease:

General Information: <https://www.cdc.gov/zika/>

Prevention: <https://www.texaszika.org/prevention.htm#preventbreeding>

Current Cases: <https://www.texaszika.org/currentcases.htm>

Zika Testing: <http://www.dshs.texas.gov/news/releases/2018/HealthAlert-04022018.aspx>