



## **Zika Virus**

### Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's)

#### **What is Zika virus disease (Zika)?**

Zika is a disease caused by Zika virus that is spread to people primarily through the bite of an infected *Aedes* species mosquito. The most common symptoms of Zika are fever, rash, joint pain, and conjunctivitis (red eyes). The illness is usually mild with symptoms lasting for several days to a week.

#### **What are the symptoms of Zika?**

About 1 in 5 people infected with Zika will get sick. For people who get sick, the illness is usually mild. For this reason, many people might not realize they have been infected.

The most common symptoms of Zika virus disease are fever, rash, joint pain, or conjunctivitis (red eyes). Symptoms typically begin 2 to 7 days after being bitten by an infected mosquito.

#### **How is Zika transmitted?**

Zika is primarily transmitted through the bite of infected *Aedes* mosquitoes. Mosquitoes become infected when they bite a person already infected with the virus. Infected mosquitoes can then spread the virus to other people through bites. It can also be transmitted from a pregnant mother to her baby during pregnancy or around the time of birth. We do not know how often Zika is transmitted from mother to baby during pregnancy or around the time of birth.

#### **Who is at risk of being infected?**

Anyone who is living in or traveling to an area where Zika virus is found who has not already been infected with Zika virus is at risk for infection, including pregnant women.

#### **What are some ways to prevent Zika?**

Since there is no vaccine to prevent Zika virus, the best way to prevent illness is to prevent mosquito bites:

- Wear long-sleeved shirts and long pants.
- Use mosquito repellent on exposed skin.

- Use air conditioning and ensure window/door screens are intact.
- Prevent standing water to prevent mosquitoes.

### **What is Denton County doing about Zika ?**

Denton County Health Department (DCHD) is working with the healthcare provider community to increase awareness, testing and reporting of Zika in order to respond to any potential local spread. DCHD is continually monitoring local, national and worldwide trends to determine the risks to the public's health and pursuing vector control activities based on surveillance to reduce local impact.