



Cameron County Department of Health and Human Services

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For Immediate Release
December 22, 2016
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Sixth Locally Acquired Mosquito Transmitted Zika Case Confirmed in Cameron County

Cameron County Department of Health and Human Services announced today a sixth locally acquired mosquito transmitted Zika case has been confirmed. The case is a 14 year old male from Brownsville who is not associated with the first reported locally acquired Zika case.

Epidemiological investigation within close proximity of the index case household and education on the elimination of mosquito breeding sources will be provided by the Cameron County Department of Health and Human Services and local municipalities.

“Based on the information that we have, the source of the transmission appears to be mosquito-borne that took place several weeks ago”, states Dr. James W. Castillo, Cameron County Health Authority. “The time factor, combined with the cooler weather we have been experiencing, leads us to believe that it is not necessary to conduct door-to-door surveillance to the same extent that was done when the first locally acquired case was identified.”

Zika virus is transmitted to people primarily through the bite of an infected mosquito, though it can be spread through sexual contact. The four most common symptoms are fever, itchy rash, joint pain, and eye redness. While symptoms are usually minor, Zika can also cause severe birth defects, including microcephaly, and other poor birth outcomes in some women infected during pregnancy.

Last week CDC released a guidance detailing that pregnant women should be tested for Zika during the first and second trimesters of their pregnancy. Pregnant women with an epidemiological link to Brownsville on or after October 29, 2016, should be tested for Zika virus infection in accordance to CDC guidance. An epidemiological link means that they live in, traveled to, or had sex without using a condom with someone who lives in or traveled to Brownsville on or after this date.

“Although this case is not pregnant, we still want to remind women who are pregnant to discuss the risk of Zika with their physician and get the appropriate screenings to ensure a healthy pregnancy,” states Castillo. “If a woman is pregnant or is considering becoming pregnant, she should be evaluated for possible Zika virus exposure during each prenatal care visit and take steps to avoid mosquito bites.”

Cameron County Department of Health and Human Services continues to work with the City of Brownsville to address vector control activities in the area. Weather permitting, mosquito traps continue to be set up to test mosquitoes for Zika and the City of Brownsville will continue to conduct mosquito spraying in the city.

CCDHHS continues to emphasize the importance of the following prevention methods”

- Apply EPA-registered mosquito repellent that contains **DEET** (N, N-diethyl-meta-toluamide), picaridin, or oil of lemon eucalyptus. Spray exposed skin and clothing with repellent. Be sure to read label instructions on any repellent and use as directed. Dress protectively by wearing long-sleeved shirts, long pants, socks, and shoes when you are outside. Drain standing water in your backyard and neighborhood.
- Use air conditioning or window/door screens to keep mosquitoes outside. Stay indoors to prevent mosquito bites.
- Keep in mind that that spread Zika virus bite mostly during the daytime so county residents should use precautions throughout the day. If you are not able to protect yourself from mosquitoes inside your homes or hotel, sleep under a mosquito bed net.
- Use protection during sex especially when if your partner traveled to an area with Zika or if you are pregnant or considering getting pregnant. Women and men who are considering starting or expanding their family should talk to their healthcare provider to inform their decisions about timing of pregnancy.

Cameron County Department of Health and Human Services will continue working with the City of Brownsville, Texas, Department of State Health Services, and Center for Disease Control and Prevention in the education, surveillance, and vector control activities and will alert the public with any necessary updates.