

## California Zika Response Activities and Resources

Supplement to “Guidance for Surveillance of and Response to Invasive *Aedes* Mosquitoes and Dengue, Chikungunya, and Zika in California”

May 2016

### Background

In May 2015, the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) issued an alert regarding the first confirmed case of Zika virus infection in Brazil. The Zika outbreak in Brazil coincided with increased reports of Guillain-Barré syndrome (GBS) and pregnant women giving birth to babies with birth defects. From Brazil, the Zika virus spread to many regions of the Americas and the Caribbean. Zika virus outbreaks are currently occurring in [many countries and territories](#). The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) continues to monitor Zika cases in the United States and U.S. territories and updates guidance as new information becomes available. California is closely monitoring Zika cases among returning travelers and their sexual contacts in the state. For more information, visit [California Department of Public Health’s Zika website](#) and [CDC’s Zika website](#).

### Purpose

The California Zika Response Activities and Resources document is a ready reference and aid for local public health, vector control agencies, and health care providers in California, and serves as a supplement to the document: [Guidance for Surveillance of and Response to Invasive \*Aedes\* Mosquitoes and Dengue, Chikungunya, and Zika in California](#). This document was adapted from CDC’s [“Top 10 Zika Response Planning Tips: Brief Information for State, Tribal, Local, and Territorial Health Officials.”](#)

### Zika Readiness Planning Resources

Local responses to Zika cases or an outbreak will differ in jurisdictions where *Aedes* species mosquitoes (*Aedes aegypti* and *Aedes albopictus*) are present and therefore could become infected with Zika virus. All counties may have travel-associated Zika cases. It is critical for state and local public health to ensure that there is enhanced epidemiology and surveillance systems, as well as support for pregnant women and families with a child born with microcephaly or other birth defects linked to Zika virus infection. The following are resources that the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) and CDC have developed to help prepare for potential Zika cases in California. Listed activities are relevant to CDPH, local health departments, and/or vector control agencies.

1. **Vector Control and Surveillance**  
(Applicable in all locations where *Aedes aegypti* or *Aedes albopictus* mosquitoes are present)

**Goal:** To target vector control activities in priority areas/at-risk populations to suppress Zika virus transmission if local cases or an outbreak is detected.

### **Key Activities**

- Ensure ongoing communication between local vector control agencies, local health departments, and CDPH.
- Conduct ongoing local vector surveillance and control, especially in jurisdictions where *Aedes aegypti* and *Aedes albopictus* mosquitoes are present.
- Conduct extensive *Aedes* mosquito surveillance and control within a 150-yard radius of Zika case-patients' residences immediately subsequent to case detection.
- Conduct enhanced *Aedes* mosquito surveillance and control in vicinity of locations case-patients frequented (work, school, etc.) as indicated by epidemiologic investigations.
- Educate communities on how to reduce mosquito populations through source reduction.
- Educate communities on how to protect themselves using personal protection and primary mosquito prevention methods.
- Provide guidance and mosquito control services to pregnant women in high-risk areas.

### **Resources**

- [CDPH: Guidance for Surveillance of and Response to Invasive Aedes Mosquitoes and Dengue, Chikungunya, and Zika in California](#)
- [CDPH: Aedes aegypti and Aedes albopictus information](#)
- [CDC: Surveillance and Control of Aedes aegypti and Aedes albopictus in the United States](#)
- [Rutgers: Aedes albopictus control](#)
- [CDC: Help Control Mosquitoes that Spread Dengue, Chikungunya, and Zika Viruses](#)

## **2. Public Health Surveillance and Epidemiological Investigation**

**Goals:** To ensure adequate and accurate diagnosis and reporting of Zika cases; to monitor epidemiologic trends in distribution, transmission, and severity; to inform prevention and control efforts; and to identify cases or clusters that require follow-up or intervention.

### **Key Activities**

- Ensure systems and procedures are in place to identify potential or confirmed Zika cases:
  - with symptomatic infections
  - in pregnant women
  - associated with reproductive or congenital outcomes, including microcephaly
  - associated with Guillain-Barré syndrome
  - associated with blood transfusions
  - associated with sexual transmission
- Ensure investigating officials and clinicians have the latest case definitions from the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists and CDC.
- Ensure clinicians are aware that Zika is reportable to public health in California and in the U.S.

#### **Resources**

- [Current case definitions](#)

### **3. Laboratory Testing and Support Services**

**Goal:** To ensure local health departments have the support needed for testing of suspect Zika cases.

#### **Key Activities**

- Ensure ongoing availability of molecular (RT-PCR) tests or IgM antibody serology for Zika virus infection at CDPH or elsewhere.
- Communicate with healthcare providers about how to submit specimens through the local health department.
- Provide ongoing consultation for health care providers who have questions regarding testing services and the interpretation of results of tests for Zika virus infection.

#### **Resources**

- [CDPH: Zika Laboratory Testing Guidance](#)
- [CDC: Zika Virus Diagnostic Testing](#)
- [CDC: Revised diagnostic testing for Zika, chikungunya, and dengue viruses in US Public Health Laboratories](#)

### **4. Prevention of Sexually Transmitted Zika Virus Infections**

**Goal:** To reduce the risk of sexually transmitted Zika virus by providing guidance to the public regarding the risks and to clinicians so they may counsel their patients.

### **Key Activity**

- Provide ongoing education to the public and clinicians regarding the risks of sexual transmission of Zika virus, and encourage the public, especially pregnant women, to follow guidelines to prevent transmission and further spread of the virus.
- **Resources**
- [CDC: Zika and Sexual Transmission](#)
- [CDC MMWR: Interim Guidelines for Prevention of Sexual Transmission of Zika Virus – United States, 2016](#)

## **5. Prevention of Blood Transfusion–transmitted Zika Virus Infections**

**Goal:** To reduce the risk of transfusion-transmitted Zika virus during a local or more widespread outbreak in areas with active transmission.

### **Key Activities**

- Continue to coordinate with local and state epidemiology and surveillance partners to identify the support needed to investigate Zika virus infections suspected to be associated with blood products or transfusions in collaboration with local blood centers and transfusing healthcare facilities.
- When local transmission is known, identify local blood centers within endemic areas to ensure that blood products collected are screened for the Zika virus, subjected to pathogen-reduction technology, or come from sources where Zika infection is not present.

### **Resources**

- [FDA Blood Safety Guidance: Recommendations for Donor Screening, Deferral, and Product Management to Reduce the Risk of Transfusion-Transmission of Zika Virus](#)

## **6. Maternal and Child Health Surveillance and Response**

**Goal:** To prevent Zika virus infection during pregnancy, monitor pregnant women with suspected or confirmed Zika virus infection, and follow up to track adverse pregnancy and infant outcomes.

### **Key Activities**

- Establish a California Zika pregnancy registry reporting system to actively monitor pregnant women with suspected or confirmed Zika infection, and contribute to the U.S. Zika Pregnancy Registry.

- Utilize the infrastructure, expertise and authority of the California Birth Defects Monitoring Program to collect and house this information.
- Identify opportunities to align with other systems that monitor pregnant women and infants/children.
- Work with CDC to engage in the U.S. Zika Pregnancy Registry.
- Ensure training and educational materials from CDC/U.S. Zika Pregnancy Registry are appropriately augmented with local information and distributed to healthcare providers.
- Reach healthcare providers who are counseling patients on how to reduce their risk of sexual transmission of the Zika virus and reduce unintended pregnancies through provision of effective contraception.
  - Via American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, Family Planning Access, Care and Treatment (Family PACT) program, California Family Health Council, Preconception Health Council of California, college health centers, Federally Qualified Health Centers and other community clinics.
- Advise patients, especially pregnant women and women trying to become pregnant, on how to reduce mosquito exposure and the recommended timeframes for conception following exposure.
  - Via local Maternal, Child, and Adolescent Health (MCAH) programs; Women's Infants and Children (WIC) programs, and health care providers and entities listed above.
- Ensure obstetric providers increase screening for symptoms of Zika and travel histories, and adhere to the CDC guidelines for monitoring pregnant women.

### **Resources**

- [CDC MMWR: Update: Interim Guidelines for Health Care Providers Caring for Pregnant Women and Women of Reproductive Age with Possible Zika Virus Exposure – United States, 2016](#)
- [CDC: Questions and Answers for Healthcare Providers Caring for Pregnant Women and Women of Reproductive Age with Possible Zika Virus Exposure](#)
- [CDC: For Health Care Providers](#)
- [CDC: Questions and Answers for Pediatric Healthcare Providers: Infants and Zika Virus Infection](#)
- [CDC Health Alert Network \(HAN\) Update: Recognizing, Managing, and Reporting Zika Virus Infections in Travelers Returning from Central America, South America, the Caribbean, and Mexico](#)
- [CDC: Clinician Outreach and Communication Activity \(COCA\) Call - Zika Virus — What Clinicians Need to Know](#)
- [CDC: Zika and Sexual Transmission](#)
- [CDC MMWR Zika Reports](#)
- [CDC: U.S. Zika Pregnancy Registry](#)

## 7. Rapid Birth Defects Monitoring and Follow-up

**Goal:** To ensure rapid detection of microcephaly, other major birth defects, and other disabilities that might be associated with Zika virus infection and conduct population-based birth defects monitoring to track whether rates of abnormalities potentially related to Zika change, and to provide birth defects registry data that will assist in planning for adequate services for these children and their families.

### Key Activities

- Ensure healthcare providers have information regarding Zika case reporting requirements and infrastructure of the [California Birth Defects Monitoring Program](#).
- Conduct population-based birth defects surveillance to track rates of birth defects potentially related to Zika infection.
- Provide birth defects registry data to assist in determining if projected needs (medical and support) for families with a child with microcephaly or another major birth defect have been assessed and planned for and if there is a system in place with the capacity to adequately address those needs.
- Monitor the evolving science and knowledge base with regard to the spectrum of birth defects resulting from Zika infection in pregnancy.
- Coordinate with and share California data with the U.S. Zika Pregnancy Registry.
- Ensure training and educational materials from CDC are appropriately augmented with California requirements and distributed to pediatric providers so that they can evaluate infants with possible congenital Zika virus infection.

### Resources

- [CDC MMWR Zika Reports](#)
- [CDC: Facts about Microcephaly](#)
- [CDPH: California Birth Defects Monitoring Program](#)
- [National Birth Defects Prevention Network](#)

## 8. Travel Health News

**Goal:** To ensure travelers to areas with locally transmitted Zika virus receive appropriate information regarding risks and protection measures.

### Key Activities

- Disseminate travel notices designed to inform travelers and clinicians about the risks for contracting Zika infection related to specific destinations and provide prevention recommendations.

- Distribute Zika advisory posters to key airports to display in areas where there are frequent international flights to Latin America or the Caribbean.

#### **Resources**

- [CDC Zika Travel Notices](#)

### **9. Clinician Outreach and Communication**

**Goal:** To inform healthcare providers of the risks, recognition, diagnosis, reporting, clinical management, outcomes, and prevention of Zika virus infections.

#### **Key Activities**

- Continue to review updates to CDC and professional organization clinical care guidelines and other publications, and update and augment CDPH material accordingly to meet local needs.
- Monitor frequent provider questions and develop and disseminate resources to address their needs.
- Identify targeted areas of clinician outreach based on Zika transmission, Zika cases, frequent travel of patients, and presence of *Aedes* mosquitoes as appropriate.
- Employ appropriate and effective channels to share information with healthcare providers (e.g., Health Alert Network, webinars).
  - Presentations and stakeholder updates
  - Healthcare provider conference calls
  - Medi-Cal Bulletin (Fee-for-service and Managed Care Providers)
  - Medi-Cal Managed Care Health Plans
  - School health centers
  - Targeted messaging via the MCAH toll free number
  - Media outlets (radio, Spanish TV, news stations)
  - Webinars

#### **Resources**

- [CDPH: Zika Virus FAQs for Health Care Providers](#)
- [CDC: Clinician Outreach and Communication Activity \(COCA\) Call - Zika Virus — What Clinicians Need to Know](#)
- [CDC MMWR Zika Reports](#)

### **10. Risk Communication/Community Education**

**Goal:** To inform the public and provide prevention strategies about Zika virus and related birth defects or illnesses, especially microcephaly and other harmful effects to pregnant women and their fetuses.

### **Key Activities**

- Develop and disseminate Zika education messages, products, and outreach campaigns with key partners and stakeholders to harmonize response for people traveling to or living in areas of higher risk of Zika transmission.
  - Create targeted messaging using the CDC Joint Information Center (JIC) key messages document, CDC and California Zika websites, and state and local resources to prepare messaging materials. Key audiences are:
    - Women of reproductive age
    - Low-income reproductive age women
    - Young women and men (college outreach)
    - Frequent travelers to areas with Zika virus transmission
    - Health care providers
  - Use various modes of communication to ensure high-risk populations receive the information (e.g., radio, television, social media, print, and talking points).
  - Segment the Zika education efforts into targeted campaigns with education and outreach toolkits for specific audiences, including:
    - MCAH/WIC program participants and community partners
    - California college students preparing for summer travel/study abroad
    - Travelers passing through California airports or Mexican border crossings
- Identify additional sources for sharing Zika news and preventive messages, including:
  - Subject matter expert/spokesperson for media interviews/press conferences, Op-eds, and presentations to local partners and other groups serving our key audiences.
  - Other programs and agencies that can disseminate information.
- Identify local vendors for translation (as necessary), printing, signage, audiovisual/public service announcement development and determine what is required (funding, contract approval) to use these resources for message and product dissemination.

### **Resources**

- [CDPH: California Zika Website](#)
- [CDC Zika Website](#)
- [CDPH: Zika and Pregnancy Poster](#)
- [CDPH: Zika and Pregnancy Poster - Spanish](#)