

REPORT ON ZIKA VIRUS

Zika virus disease (or Zika) is spread to people through mosquito bites of the Aedes mosquito. According to the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the most common symptoms of Zika virus disease are: fever, rash, joint pain, and conjunctivitis (red eyes). Other symptoms include muscle pain, headache, pain behind the eyes, and vomiting. The illness is usually mild with symptoms lasting from several days to a week. Severe disease requiring hospitalization is uncommon. Deaths from Zika have not been reported.

Outbreaks of Zika have occurred in areas of the Latin Americas, and tropical Africa, Southeast Asia, and the Pacific Islands. Because the Aedes species mosquitoes that spread Zika virus are found throughout the world, including the US, it is likely that outbreaks will spread to new countries. In May 2015, the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) issued an alert regarding the first confirmed Zika virus infections in Brazil. In December 2015, Puerto Rico reported its first confirmed Zika virus case.

Locally transmitted Zika has not been reported in the US, but cases of Zika have been reported in returning travelers.

With the recent outbreaks in South America and the Pacific Islands, the number of Zika cases among travelers visiting or returning to the US will likely increase. These imported cases may result in local spread of the virus in some areas of the US.