Austin/Travis County Health and Human Services Department

Disease Prevention/Health Promotion Division
Epidemiology and Health Statistics Unit
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Zika Situational Report – Friday, April 8, 2016

As of April 6, a total of 346 laboratory-confirmed travel-associated Zika virus disease cases have been reported to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) from 40 U.S. states and the District of Columbia. Of the 346 cases reported, 32 were pregnant women, 7 were sexually transmitted, and 1 had Guillain-Barré syndrome. Texas has 27 Zika virus disease cases.

There are 41 countries and territories with active Zika virus transmission.

As of today, staff have identified 98 persons (63 percent are pregnant women) for whom clinical specimens have been submitted to the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) for Zika virus testing. Results have been reported for 41 persons; two persons have been tested positive for Zika, one for Dengue, and two for Chikungunya. Testing results are pending for 37 persons (20 additional individual specimens were not able to be tested). There are no reported severe illnesses, hospitalizations, or deaths.

A press release on April 7 provided information about "Fight the Bite, Day and Night." Educational flyers and brief educational videos (in English and Spanish) to limit mosquito populations and exposure to mosquito bites have been created and are now available on http://www.austintexas.gov/zika. In addition, educational materials on mosquito prevention will be distributed to Austin residents this weekend during *Keep Austin Beautiful Clean Sweep* service.

An update on the Austin/Travis County Health and Human Services Department's (ATCHHSD) Zika activities was provided to city and county departments. The Medical Director and Health Authority attended CDC's *Zika Action Plan Summit* last week and he participated in a Zika conference call hosted by the Texas Association of City and County Health Officials.

For questions or more information about ways to reduce mosquitoes around property residents can continue to call Rodent and Vector program at 3-1-1.

Staff continue working with Austin area physicians to educate them on the process of submitting specimens to the state laboratory for Zika virus testing. Guidance related to Zika disease and pregnancy, laboratory testing, and prevention of sexual transmission of Zika virus have been prepared by the CDC. Staff are sharing this guidance to physician offices when requested.

Staff are also conducting interviews of persons whose physician has submitted serum specimen to the state laboratory to collect demographic and exposure data required by DSHS. Staff are also providing guidance on ways to protect oneself from mosquito bites to individuals who have scheduled trips to areas where Zika virus is circulating.

The ATCHHSD's Zika website for healthcare providers and the public has been updated with links to new information and resources: http://www.austintexas.gov/zika.

Other news:

- The World Health Organization reiterated that, based on a growing body of preliminary research, there's a scientific consensus that Zika virus is a cause of microcephaly and Guillain-Barre syndrome.

We continue to encourage people to follow travel precautions and avoid mosquito bites. The most common symptoms of Zika virus disease are fever, rash, joint pain, and conjunctivitis (red eyes). The illness is typically mild and resolves within one week.

Preventative measures residents can take to avoid mosquito bites include draining any water around their property, wearing long-sleeved shirts and long pants and using EPA-registered insect repellents.

At this time, no additional resources are needed to address and respond to the Zika virus.

ATCHHSD staff are available 24/7 to support healthcare providers in responding to any patient with a suspect Zika virus infections. ATCHHSD has created a website for healthcare providers and the public that provide information: http://www.austintexas.gov/zika.