Note to all Reviewers: Per discussion with OID ADEs the turn-around time for NEW notices is 3 days, but we request earlier clearance to the extent possible. Our audience is both the lay traveler and clinician. Content for “current situation” is taken from the GDD report from 10/16/2015. Most of the other content has been cleared in the past by DVBD for the Zika in Brazil Notice.

Zika Virus in Colombia

Watch-Level 1, Practice Usual Precautions

What is the current situation?
On October 16, 2015, Colombia announced local transmission of Zika virus infection in their country. This is the first time that Zika virus has been reported in Colombia. Local transmission means that mosquitoes in Colombia have been infected with Zika virus and are spreading it to people.

CDC recommends that travelers to Colombia protect themselves from mosquito bites

Learn more about Zika.

What can travelers do to prevent Zika?

There is no vaccine or medicine to prevent Zika. Travelers can protect themselves by preventing mosquito bites.

Prevent mosquito bites:

- Cover exposed skin by wearing long-sleeved shirts, long pants, and hats.
- Use an approved insect repellent as directed.
- Higher percentages of active ingredients provide longer protection. Use products with the following active ingredients:
  o DEET (Products containing DEET include Off!, Cutter, Sawyer, and Ultrathon.)
  o Picaridin (Also known as KBR 3023, Bayrepel, and icaridin. Products containing picaridin include Cutter Advanced, Skin So Soft Bug Guard Plus, and Autan [outside the United States].)
  o Oil of lemon eucalyptus (OLE) or PMD (Products containing OLE include Repel and Off! Botanicals.)
  o IR3535 (Products containing IR3535 include Skin So Soft Bug Guard Plus Expedition and SkinSmart.)
- Always follow product directions and reapply as directed:
- If you are also using sunscreen, apply sunscreen first, let it dry, then apply insect repellent.
• Follow package directions when applying repellent on children. Avoid applying repellent to their hands, eyes, or mouth.
• Treated clothing remains protective after multiple washings. See the product information to find out how long the protection will last.
• If treating items yourself, follow the product instructions carefully.
• Do not use permethrin directly on skin.
• Use permethrin-treated clothing and gear (such as boots, pants, socks, and tents). You can buy pre-treated clothing and gear or treat them yourself:
• Stay and sleep in screened or air-conditioned rooms.
• Use a bed net if the area where you are sleeping is exposed to the outdoors.

If you feel sick and think you may have Zika:

• Talk to your doctor or nurse, especially if you have a fever.
  o Tell them about your travel.
  o For more information about medical care abroad, see Getting Health Care Abroad and a list of International Joint Commission-accredited facilities.
• Get lots of rest and drink plenty of liquids.
• Avoid spreading the disease by preventing additional mosquito bites.

Traveler Information

• Avoid Bug Bites-information for travelers
• Insect Repellent Use and Safety
• CDC Zika website

Clinician Information

• Zika Virus Outside Africa (EID article)
• Protection against Mosquitoes, Ticks, & Other Insects & Arthropods
• Zika: Information for Health Care Providers