

Fact Sheet

Introduction

Zika virus is an emerging mosquito-borne virus that causes mild illness. Zika virus has been previously found in tropical Africa, Southeast Asia, and the Pacific Islands.

Symptoms

The most common symptoms include fever, rash, joint pain, headaches, and conjunctivitis (red eyes). Symptoms last for several days to a week. Hospitalization from severe disease is uncommon, and deaths are rare.



Transmission

Zika virus is transmitted to humans through the bite of an infected *Aedes* species mosquito (*A. aegypti* and *A. albopictus*). They are the same mosquitoes that spread dengue and chikungunya viruses. These mosquitoes are known to be aggressive daytime biters, but also bite at night. Other people can be infected through bites from infected mosquitoes. It can also be transmitted from a pregnant mother to her baby during pregnancy or around the time of birth.

Incubation Period

The incubation period is not known, but is likely to be a few days to a week.

Vaccination

There is no vaccine or medications available to prevent or treat Zika infections.

Treatment

Symptoms can be treated by drinking plenty of fluids to prevent dehydration, getting plenty of rest, and taking common medicine to treat pain and fever.

Prevention

Prevent exposure to Zika virus disease by avoiding mosquito bites. Wear long-sleeved shirts and long pants. Avoid mosquito breeding by eliminating standing waters. Use Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) registered insect repellents.