

# Zika Virus

The Zika Virus is spread through the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito. This mosquito is spreading quickly throughout Central, South, and North America as well as the Caribbean. It is different from most other species of mosquito due to the fact that it has adapted to living in close proximity to humans and the trash they create in their surroundings.

These mosquitoes usually lay their eggs in or near standing water... marshy areas, ditches, edges of creeks and streams, flower pots, animal water bowls, buckets, etc. They only need a small amount of water to lay their eggs and will use any location that has a water build-up including old tires, plastic bags, or anywhere that water accumulates. Junk yards, farms, backyards, and any open area is prime breeding ground for these mosquitoes. They are typically aggressive daytime biters but will feed at night if necessary.

The Zika infection will spread to mosquitoes from biting an infected human and then feeding on another human. The Zika virus can also be passed from pregnant mothers to their infants, sexually transmitted (Zika is present in semen longer than in the blood), or through blood transfusions. Anyone who lives or travels to a location where Zika is present is at risk as well as anyone that has not already been infected, however once a person has been infected they are at a greatly reduced risk for a second infection. There is no known vaccine or cure for this Virus and the best thing a person can do is protect themselves from mosquito bites. You can do simple things like emptying standing water, spraying yourself with repellent, killing the adult mosquitoes and even their larva.

**PROTECT YOURSELF, YOUR LIVESTOCK, YOUR FAMILY, AND YOUR PROPERTY!**