

ZIKA

VIRUS

and MALES

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW!

WHAT IS ZIKA VIRUS?

- A virus transmitted to humans primarily by *Aedes* mosquitoes, such as *A. aegypti* and *A. albopictus*, which are mosquitoes that may be found in Alabama.
- An outbreak of Zika is currently occurring in Central and South America and the Caribbean.
- A cluster of local transmission has occurred in the Wynwood and Miami Beach areas of Miami.
- Zika may cause an illness that includes fever, joint pains, rash and red eyes.
- Zika may also be transmitted through sex. If a man's pregnant partner becomes infected, the baby may suffer serious birth defects.

ZIKA VIRUS AND SEXUAL TRANSMISSION

WHAT WE KNOW

- Both males and females with Zika virus can pass it to sex partners.
- Sex includes vaginal, anal, and oral sex, and sharing of sex toys.
- Zika virus can be transmitted before, during or after symptoms develop, or it may be transmitted by someone who carries the virus but has never had symptoms.

WHAT WE DON'T KNOW

- How long the virus is present in semen in men who have had Zika (although we know it can remain in semen longer than in blood).
- How often a person with Zika will pass it to sex partners.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR MEN WHO LIVE IN OR TRAVELED TO AN AREA WITH ACTIVE ZIKA TRANSMISSION

- If the man's partner is pregnant, the couple should either not have sex or use condoms the right way every time they have vaginal, anal, and oral (mouth-to-penis) sex during the partner's pregnancy.
- Condoms can also help prevent getting HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases.
- Regardless of whether symptoms occur or not, couples should avoid pregnancy for at least 6 months using the most effective birth control available in addition to condoms.
- Men who live or are traveling in an area with active Zika transmission should also take steps to prevent mosquito bites.
- If a man develops symptoms of Zika virus illness at any time during his travel or within two weeks after he returns, he should see his health care provider to see if he has Zika virus or another illness.

Not having sex is the best way to be sure that someone does not get sexually transmitted Zika virus.

For more information, please visit www.adph.org/mosquito, or call 1-800-252-1818.

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