



Public Health
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Frederick County Health Department

News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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County health department to hold Zika Awareness events

Activities geared toward preventing infection from mosquito bites, human contact

FREDERICK, MD -- In accordance with Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan's proclamation of April 24-30 as Maryland Zika Awareness Week, the Frederick County Health Department will be hosting a series of activities to equip residents with information to help minimize their risk for the mosquito-borne virus, as weather becomes warmer.

"Our activities will be centered around helping our residents make sure that they don't provide places and opportunities around their homes for mosquitoes to breed," said county health officer Dr. Barbara Brookmyer.

Zika Awareness Week is part of Maryland's effort to raise awareness about the virus and about prevention. Throughout this week, local health departments throughout the state will be scheduling activities in their respective communities.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have stated – because transmission has chiefly occurred through the bite of the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito – that preventing mosquito bites is the best way to prevent infection.

The CDC also has confirmed that people who have traveled to countries where the virus is actively transmitted (the Caribbean, Central American and South American countries) should abstain from unprotected sexual activity, especially if their partner is a woman who is pregnant or who could become pregnant. For more information on prevention steps, visit the CDC at <http://goo.gl/mzPHVy>.

As of today, Maryland has had nine confirmed cases of Zika virus infection. All have been related to travel from areas of ongoing transmission; none have involved local transmission.

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Frederick County Health Department Zika awareness activities follow:

- Distribute Focus on Health video “Local Homeowners Mosquito Protections Tips – Drain, Dress, & Defend” to Home Owners Associations, Neighborhood Advisory Councils (NACs), County and City Parks and Recreation <https://youtu.be/1yjdTginA9A>
- Join County Executive Jan Gardner for a Public Information Briefing on Public Health Issues http://frederick.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=5&clip_id=5246.
- Provide demonstrations and information to school age children through “Take Your Kids to Work” activities
- Distribute Zika Awareness Kits to targeted populations
- Host a healthcare provider teleconference to provide updated information
- Update social media sites with current content on Zika and mosquito control fact sheets, infographics, posters, and videos

The Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene keeps a record of confirmed cases on its website: <http://goo.gl/oAqPF6>. For more information about the Zika virus, visit the CDC at <http://www.cdc.gov/zika/>.

For further information contact Dr. Barbara Brookmyer, Health Officer, at the Frederick County Health Department at 301-600-1029 or via e-mail at Bbrookmyer@FrederickCountyMD.gov.

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