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CITY OF KENNER

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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INFORMATION ABOUT THE ZIKA VIRUS

Kenner, LA. – The Zika virus, which is primarily spread by mosquitoes, has been in the news for nearly a year as it has spread through South America and Latin America and appears poised to reach the United States.

For adults, the disease is not that serious – 4 out of 5 people infected don't even notice the symptoms. A rash, joint pain, fever and pink eye are the most common symptoms and they last a week or less.

However, the virus has been connected to a serious birth defect when pregnant women are infected. Microcephaly is a condition in which the baby's head is smaller than expected, and in many cases, there is incomplete brain development.

Officials with Mosquito Control talked about Zika at a recent Kenner Council meeting and explained that there have been no locally transmitted cases of the virus anywhere in the U.S. While it's possible the mosquito may show up in Southern states in the upcoming weeks and months - we are not expecting to experience the epidemic levels seen in South America.

Officials explained that the mosquito most strongly linked to Zika (known as the Yellow Fever Mosquito – or *Aedes aegypti*) is present but not that common in Kenner and the New Orleans area. The more common mosquito with the ability to spread Zika is the Asian Tiger, or *Aedes albopictus*.

Mosquitoes that transmit Zika usually breed in containers of water around our homes and don't stray far away from their nurseries. Although residents have little chance of contracting Zika on fields, in the woods, marsh or on hunting or fishing trips, mosquitoes found in our own backyards can potentially transmit the disease.

A combination of being vigilant about eliminating containers and other mosquito breeding sites in our own yards and protecting ourselves and family from mosquito bites by dressing appropriately and considering the use of repellants can significantly reduce the risk of getting the Zika virus.

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Know your targets & Aim for these **Disease Carriers!**



Southern House Mosquito



Culex quinquefasciatus

- ✦ Bites during the evening hours and dawn.
- ✦ Common in Louisiana, and the Gulf Coast
- ✦ Transmits West Nile, St. Louis Encephalitis, likely Dog Heartworm

Asian Tiger Mosquito



Aedes albopictus

- ✦ Bites during the daytime, dusk, and dawn.
- ✦ Common in Louisiana, and the Gulf Coast
- ✦ Transmits West Nile Virus, Dog Heartworm, Dengue, and believed to transmit Chikungunya & Zika

Yellow Fever Mosquito



Aedes aegypti

- ✦ Bites during the daytime, dusk, and dawn.
- ✦ Less common in Louisiana, and Gulf Coast
- ✦ Transmits Dengue, Chikungunya, Yellow Fever, Zika

CONTROL MOSQUITOES AROUND YOUR HOME

People can become infected when bitten by an infected mosquito. Eliminating mosquito breeding areas around your property will lower your risk of infection.

Eliminate any standing water around your property

Once a week, empty, turn over, cover, or throw out items that hold water, such as tires, buckets, planters, toys, pools, birdbaths, flowerpots, or trash containers.

Tightly cover water storage containers (buckets, cisterns, rain barrels) so that mosquitoes cannot get inside to lay eggs.

For containers without lids, use wire mesh with holes smaller than an adult mosquito.

If you have a septic tank, follow these steps:

Repair cracks or gaps

Cover open vent or plumbing pipes. Use wire mesh with holes smaller than an adult mosquito.

Keep mosquitoes out of your home:

Use screens on windows and doors

Repair holes in screens

Prevent mosquito bites:

Wear long sleeves and pants

Use an EPA-registered insect repellent with one of the following active ingredients:

DEET Picaridin Oil of lemon eucalyptus

Always follow the product label instructions

Visit mosquitoes.com for more tips and downloadable instructional pamphlets as well as other educational materials.

Mosquito Control Services Virus Response

Disease Surveillance

We distribute different surveillance traps throughout the parish and inspect them multiple times each week.

Collected samples of mosquitoes are speciated and catalogued. Each trap is analyzed for target vector mosquitoes. Those vector mosquitoes are then packaged and sent to the Louisiana State Diagnostic Laboratory for testing.

When a sample of mosquitoes is confirmed to contain mosquitoes positive for virus or a human is identified in an area, a response protocol is initiated involving elevated control efforts (including a higher frequency of spray applications).

Notification

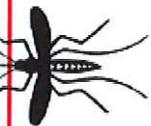
Residents in the area of a confirmed positive sample or human case will be informed through the distribution of door hangers and informational pamphlets.



MOSQUITO CONTROL SERVICES

Currently
in the news...

Zika Virus



MOSQUITO CONTROL SERVICES, LLC

Services

mosquitoocs.com

Mosquito Control 504-366-0084

January/February 2016

What is Zika Virus?
Zika is an infectious disease transmitted to people through the bite of an infected mosquito.

What are the Symptoms?

Symptoms include: Muscle or joint pain, rash, vomiting, headache (especially behind eyes, and conjunctivitis).
Not all persons infected will become ill. Symptoms usually begin 2 to 7 days after being infected by the mosquito. You should see a doctor if you believe you have been exposed to ZIKA.

Once a person is infected, there is a period of 7 - 10 days where an Aedes mosquito can acquire the virus from them.

Am I at risk?

Currently, the risk of ZIKA in our area is low. There have been no recorded cases of a mosquito transmitting Zika in the gulf coast region.

Travelers visiting areas of the world where Zika virus is active should guard themselves from being bit by a mosquito. Currently, these areas include parts of Africa, Southeast Asia, the Pacific Islands, Caribbean, Central and South America.

Visit cdc.gov/travel for country specific travel information and recommendations.

COMMON MOSQUITO-BORNE HEALTH THREATS IN LOUISIANA & GULF COAST

- West Nile Virus (WNV)
- St. Louis Encephalitis (SLE)
- Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE)
- Dog Heartworm

EMERGING THREATS TO OUR REGION

- Chikungunya
- Dengue
- Zika Virus

Where can I get more information on ZIKA & other disease threats?

Visit cdc.gov/zika to learn where ZIKA is prevalent and get up to date information on new developments.

Visit dh.louisiana.gov or call 1-800-256-2748 to get current information on Louisiana health concerns including Zika, West Nile, and other viruses & health threats.

Visit us at mosquitoocs.com

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MOSQUITO CONTROL SERVICES