

# EPA and the Zika Virus

Updates for PPDC meeting  
Session 2, November 3, 2016

## Federal Government Response

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is the federal agency lead in addressing the spread of the Zika virus. EPA supports CDC, providing expertise in integrated pest management (IPM), pesticide registration and use, and environmental contamination cleanup of indoor and outdoor areas. EPA is focused on appropriate pesticide use, including technical assistance on wide-area spraying, residential treatments, and any potential new product registrations or emergency exemptions (Section 18s). In order to address public health concerns, EPA is providing technical assistance and training to prevent pesticide misuse and overuse, protecting both human health and the environment.

EPA has approved 5 emergency exemptions for pesticide products to be used for vector control in response to the spread of the Zika virus via mosquitos:

- Three were issued to CDC to help protect people from mosquito bites (primarily nets and curtains);
- One was issued to CDC to control mosquito populations (In2Care traps); and
- One was issued to the Department of Defense to help them comply with international requirements to disinsect aircraft coming from countries with Zika transmission.

## Zika Case Counts

*As of October 12, 2016 – please visit [www.cdc.gov/zika/](http://www.cdc.gov/zika/) for the most up-to-date case counts*

- **Continental US:** 3,807 travel related cases; 128 locally acquired mosquito-borne cases, of which all are in Florida
- **US Territories:** 84 travel related cases; 25,955 locally acquired mosquito-borne cases, of which 25,355 are in Puerto Rico
- **Pregnant Women with Laboratory Evidence of Possible Zika Infection:** 878 women in continental US; 1,806 women in US territories

## Preventing Mosquito-borne Zika Transmission

*And other mosquito-borne diseases!*

- It is never too early to plan ahead! Actions can be taken year-round to control mosquito populations.
- Mosquito control is usually handled by mosquito control districts at a local or county level. Mosquito control officials make decisions on how to combat mosquito populations, which may include IPM techniques and pesticides. Local officials decide if the use of pesticides via ground spraying by truck or hand or aerial application is appropriate to control mosquitoes.
- EPA and CDC encourage the use of IPM to control mosquito populations. Simple actions to prevent mosquito breeding can help prevent the spread of mosquito-borne diseases such as Zika, dengue, and chikungunya. Tips are available at: [www.epa.gov/mosquitocontrol/remove-mosquito-habitats](http://www.epa.gov/mosquitocontrol/remove-mosquito-habitats).
- There are multiple pesticides approved to control mosquitoes, some are adulticides that target adult mosquito populations and others are larvicides that target mosquito larvae. Both are important tools in

controlling mosquito populations and when used according to the label directions, do not pose risks to the community.

- EPA is committed to expediting the review and/or registration of any tools to help combat the spread of Zika. This includes working with companies (pesticide registrants, or manufacturers) to expedite the registration of new products and addressing any issues that may arise due to the need to import additional pesticide active ingredients for manufacturing.

## Zika-related Resources

Due to the fast-paced nature of this effort and the ever-evolving information, be sure to check the information available online frequently.

### EPA resources:

- **Mosquito Control:** <https://www.epa.gov/mosquitocontrol>
- **Insect Repellents:** <https://www.epa.gov/insect-repellents/using-repellent-products-protect-against-mosquito-borne-illnesses> information on using repellents to protect against mosquito-borne illness
- **Insect Repellent Finder:** <https://www.epa.gov/insect-repellents/find-insect-repellent-right-you> popular search tool to help the public choose a repellent product that is right for their needs (allows for searching for EPA-registered mosquito and/or tick products)

### CDC resources:

The most up-to-date information on the Zika virus, including symptoms, current transmission locations, travel advisories, and outreach materials are available at [www.cdc.gov/zika/](http://www.cdc.gov/zika/).

**Zika Communication Toolkits:** <http://www.cdc.gov/zika/comm-resources/toolkits.html>

- Toolkits for various audiences to use when preparing for local transmission of Zika in the US.

In addition, CDC hosts regular trainings and webinars for different audiences, including state and local officials. We encourage you to sign up for CDC's email newsletter so you can receive this information. You can sign up for the CDC Emergency Partners newsletter here

[https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/USCDC/subscriber/new?topic\\_id=USCDC\\_964](https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/USCDC/subscriber/new?topic_id=USCDC_964).