

Zika Virus Disease and Schools

1. What is Zika Virus Disease?

Zika is a disease that spreads mostly through the bites of the *Aedes* mosquitoes. These mosquitoes can live indoors and can bite anytime, day or night. People rarely are hospitalized or die from this disease. However, if a pregnant woman becomes infected with Zika, her baby might be born with birth defects. Pregnant women and their sexual partners should avoid traveling to areas where Zika is actively spreading. Visit <http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel> to view the current listing of affected areas.

2. How does it spread?

Zika spreads mostly through the bites of a specific type of mosquito called the *Aedes* mosquito. This disease sometimes spreads through unprotected sex, but this is much less common. Zika doesn't spread through casual contact, like shaking hands.

3. What are the symptoms of Zika?

Symptoms of Zika infection usually begin 3-7 days after being infected and can include fever, rash, red eyes and muscle pain. However, the majority of people infected with Zika have no symptoms at all.

4. What is happening in Los Angeles (LA) County?

The mosquitoes capable of spreading Zika can be found in LA County, but none have been infected with this virus. People in LA County infected with Zika have been exposed during travel to areas mostly in Mexico, Central and South America.

5. What should schools do to prepare for Zika?

Schools are a valuable resource to educate and reduce fear and misunderstanding. Schools should encourage the prevention of mosquito bites and the reduction of mosquito breeding sites. Visit <http://www.cdc.gov/zika/prevention/prevent-mosquito-bites.html> for more information on how to prevent mosquito bites.

6. What if our school has a case of Zika on campus?

People from LA County frequently travel to areas where Zika is spreading, so it's likely that local schools will have cases of Zika infection among students, staff, and their families. If there is a suspected or confirmed Zika case on campus, it's not necessary to issue a school-wide notification or remove students or staff members since the virus doesn't spread person-to-person by casual contact. Isolation or quarantine of persons with Zika is neither recommended nor appropriate. Schools should continue to prioritize strategies to prevent mosquito bites and eliminate mosquito breeding. It's important to maintain privacy and nondiscrimination protections for all students and employees. If local Zika virus transmission occurs in LA County, it's not necessary to cancel school-related activities.



Key Points:

- Mosquitoes in LA County haven't been infected with the Zika virus. Zika cases in LA were exposed during travel.
- Schools should encourage prevention of mosquito bites.
- Campuses will likely have cases of Zika, but it's not necessary to issue a schoolwide notification or isolate cases.

For more information:

Los Angeles County,
Department of Public Health
<http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/media/zika/>

California Department of
Public Health
<http://www.cdph.ca.gov/HealthInfo/discond/Pages/Zika.aspx>

Centers for Disease Control and
Prevention (CDC)
www.cdc.gov/zika/schools.html