



KALAMAZOO COUNTY GOVERNMENT

In the Pursuit of Extraordinary Governance...

What is the Zika Virus?

The ZIKA virus is a disease that is transmitted via a mosquito bite, primarily through the *Aedes albopictus* and *Aedes aegypti* mosquito species. The symptoms include mild rash, fever, muscle and joint pains, and headache. These symptoms are often overlooked and most cases last only 2-7 days. Many who are infected may not experience symptoms, however in rare cases, Zika can trigger paralysis. Not only can Zika spread through mosquito bites, it can also spread through unprotected sex and from mother to unborn baby. Infection during pregnancy can cause birth defects such as microcephaly and other severe fetal brain defects. It is also important to note that there is no vaccine or medicine for the Zika virus.

What We Know About the Aedes Mosquito

- They enjoy tropical, subtropical, and some temperate climates
- Capable of spreading the Zika, dengue, and chikungunya along with other viruses
- The *aegypti* mosquito likes to feed on people and live near them. This makes them more likely to spread viruses
- The *albopictus* mosquito can tolerate cooler temperatures and are more likely to feed on animals which makes them less likely to spread viruses
- Michigan is on the cusp of the migration pattern of the *Aedes* species



The *Aedes aegypti* mosquito, also known as the yellow fever mosquito.

Reducing Mosquito Breeding Sites

- Drain and rid areas that hold water
- Overturn plant pots that collect water
- Dispose of or drill draining holes in the bottom of unused tires
- Replace water and scrub bird baths, pet bowls, and uncovered boats weekly
- Clear clogged gutters

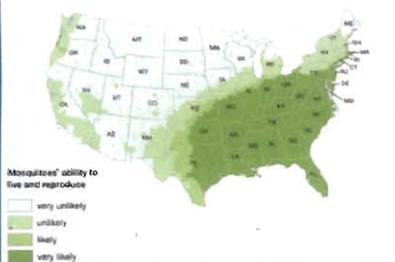
Protect Yourself from Biting Mosquitoes

- Use insect repellent with 20% or greater DEET on exposed skin
- Stay in screened areas
- Avoid products that smell like fruit and flowers
- Wear light colored clothing, mosquitoes are attracted to dark colors
- Wear clothes treated with permethrin that cover your skin

What is Kalamazoo County Doing?

Though this mosquito is not currently known to be present in our County, Kalamazoo County Environmental Health staff will be setting several mosquito traps to survey and identify any *Aedes* mosquito that may be in our community from May through September of 2019. Actively trapping and testing mosquitoes is an effective way of providing early detection of the spread of the ZIKA virus.

Estimated Potential Range of *Aedes albopictus* in the United States, 2017



Estimated Potential Range of *Aedes aegypti* in the United States, 2017



Estimated Migration Range of *Aedes* mosquitoes in 2017

HEALTH AND COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT Environmental Health Unit

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