



## Dear Provider Community:

### Health Advisory on the Zika Virus: Warning in Effect for Pregnant Women Who Are Traveling

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has issued an advisory on Zika Virus infections for those returning from Central America, South America, the Caribbean, and Mexico. The NYC Department of Health & Mental Hygiene (DOHMH) is closely monitoring the situation. As of January 28th, three cases of Zika were reported in New York City, each of which were contracted outside of the country. All patients have recovered and there is no risk of getting infected in the New York City.

Zika is a virus primarily spread to people who are bitten by infected mosquitos. About 1 in 5 people who are infected with the virus become sick. Common symptoms include fever, rash, joint pain, and conjunctivitis (red eye). Most people recover and the virus is not contagious. However, several months following a Zika outbreak in Brazil, a large number of babies born have been born with microcephaly, a smaller than normal head. Given this risk, DOHMH is advising pregnant women to consider postponing travel to affected areas. If individuals travel to an affected area, they should take steps to avoid mosquitos by using insect repellent and take other preventive measures. Pregnant women who have recently traveled to the affected countries should consult with their doctor.

For more information about the Zika virus, symptoms, ways to prevent the virus, how the city is taking action, and the latest updates, visit the Health Department [website](#). The Zika virus continues to spread and it will be difficult to determine how it will spread over time. The [CDC website](#) has additional information, including updated maps of affected countries. The city is working with the CDC and the state to actively monitor the situation and prepare for the start of the mosquito season. A travel warning for pregnant women is available to download on the DOHMH [website](#) in multiple languages, which staff may share with individuals and organizations with whom we work.

Dr. Ursulina Bencosme  
Agency Medical Director

## Cross Divisional

### Pre-K Applications Now Being Accepted

The Pre-K application process has begun! If you live in New York City and your child was born in 2012, he or she is eligible to attend Pre-Kindergarten for the September 2016 school year.

Parents can apply online at [www.nyc.gov/prek](http://www.nyc.gov/prek), by phone by calling 718-935-2067 or in person at a DOE Family Welcome Center, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Interpretation services are available over the phone and in-person at the Welcome Center.

[Find a Welcome Center near you.](#)

### All applications must be submitted by March 4th, 2016

DOE is also hosting Parent Information Sessions on the Pre-K enrollment process. Attached you will find a listing of session dates and times.

### Important facts to share with parents about Pre-Kindergarten:

- It is FREE!
- Parents of children with disabilities should apply
- Parents should review the Pre-K Directory of the borough in which they reside FIRST; it lists admissions priorities for each school.
- Parents should rank schools in their order of preference; the first program listed being their first choice.
- Applications completed online can be updated at any time before the March 4th deadline.
- Directories include Pre-K programs run by the Department of Education (DOE) or a NYC Early Education Centers (NYCEEC-also known as Community Based Organizations); both types of programs can be listed on the application.
- Programs can be half-day (morning or afternoon) or full-day. If the child's Pre-K program is a half-day at a NYCEEC, parents may have an option to extend to full-day program for a fee.
- Parents should contact NYCEECs directly to inquire whether there are eligibility requirements or additional fees associated with full-day programs.
- Applications are not processed on a first-come, first-served basis. ALL applications are treated the same no matter when they are received as long as they are received by the March 4th deadline.
- Parents will be given one program offer in early May.'

If you have questions related to Pre-K enrollment contact the ACS Office of Education Support and Policy Planning at (212) 453-9918 or by email at: [education.unit@acs.nyc.gov](mailto:education.unit@acs.nyc.gov)

## Foster Care

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### [Foster Parent Recruitment](#)

#### Foster Parent Recruitment Events

Thursday, February 18, 2016, 5:30pm - 7:00pm  
Langston Hughes Library & Community Cultural Center, 100-01 Northern Boulevard (bet 100th & 101st Street), Corona, NY 11368

**Directions:** Take the Q66 bus to 101st Street or 7 Train to 103rd Street/Corona Plaza and take the Q23 bus to Northern Boulevard and walk over two blocks to 101st Street.

[Download the flyer](#)

#### Foster Parent Informational Forum

Tuesday, March 29, 2016 | 5:30pm - 7:00pm  
The Children's Aid Society Dunlevy Milbank Campus  
14-32 West 118th Street | New York, NY 10026  
(Between: Lenox Avenue and Fifth Avenue)

Contact: Denise Eugene – 212.949.4905

[Download the flyer](#)

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## Archived Bulletins



## [Foster Parent Recruitment Events](#)

The Parent Support and Recruitment team from the Division of Family Permanency Services invites you to the next Foster Parent Recruitment Forum on:

**When:** Thursday, February 18, 2016, 5:30pm -7:00pm

**Where:** Langston Hughes Library & Community Cultural Center, 100-01 Northern Boulevard (bet 100th & 101st Street), Corona, NY 11368

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[Download the flyer](#)

[Check our Twitter page for more](#)

## [College & Career Corner- February Sessions](#)

The Office of Education Support and Policy Planning has launched the College and Career Corner so 11th and 12th grade students in foster care can connect to a peer mentor and receive help with college applications and career advice from peers who have received ACS services. College advisors from the Options Institute will also be available for consultations! Sessions are held twice a month at ACS - 150 William Street.

**February sessions will be held:**

- February 10, 4pm to 6pm, 150 William Street, 19th Floor, Staten Island Room
- February 24, 4pm to 6pm, 150 William Street, 19th Floor, Staten Island Room

Dinner and Metro cards will be provided. For more information contact, Karyn Boutis at [Karyn.Boutis@acs.nyc.gov](mailto:Karyn.Boutis@acs.nyc.gov)

## [CUNY Assistance for Youth in Foster Care](#)

CUNY has established the CUNY Start-ASAP pipeline initiative to serve students aged 17-21 who are currently being served by the New York City foster care system and wish to pursue an Associate's degree at CUNY.

Students with little or no remedial needs based on their CUNY Assessment tests are ready to matriculate full time into the CUNY ASAP program. If students score low on the CUNY Assessment tests, they can be referred to the CUNY Start program for intensive remedial courses. Youth in foster care who are part of the CUNY Start-ASAP pipeline are eligible for enhanced services and financial support including: 1) assistance with the CUNY Admissions and financial aid process; 2) CUNY application fee waiver, tuition assistance and other financial supports; 3) weekly MetroCards; and 4) paid, on-campus internships at \$10/hour for up to 15 hours a week.

[Download the flyer.](#) For more information, please contact Lutful Khan, Program Coordinator, at 718-254-7791 or [Lutful.Khan@cuny.edu](mailto:Lutful.Khan@cuny.edu) and visit [www.cuny.edu/cunystart](http://www.cuny.edu/cunystart). You can also contact Karyn Boutis in ACS's Office of Education Support and Policy Planning at [Karyn.Boutis@acs.nyc.gov](mailto:Karyn.Boutis@acs.nyc.gov).

The CUNY-Start-ASAP Pipeline Referral Tool is now available [online](#). Please note that students must electronically sign the referral form in order for a CUNY representative to contact them.

### **Preventive Services**

[There are no Preventive Services announcements in this edition.](#)

### **Juvenile Justice**

[There are no Juvenile Justice announcements in this edition.](#)

### **Early Care and Education**

[There are no Early Care and Education announcements in this edition.](#)

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