



NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF  
HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE  
Mary T. Bassett, MD, MPH  
Commissioner

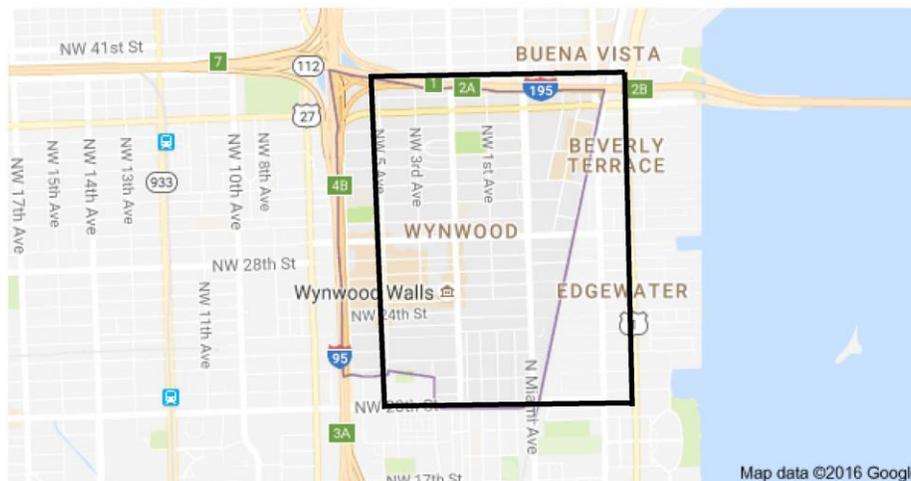
**2016 DOHMH Health Alert #28: Detecting Zika Virus Transmission in New York City**  
*Please share with your colleagues in Obstetrics/Gynecology, Internal Medicine, Family Medicine, Emergency Medicine, Urgent Care, Primary Care, Pediatrics, Infectious Disease, and Neurology:*

- **There is no local Zika virus transmission in New York City (NYC)**
- **Providers are encouraged, however, to be on the lookout for patients with Zika-compatible symptoms during August and September even in the absence of travel or sexual exposure risk**
- **The Florida Department of Health has confirmed 14 cases of Zika virus infection due to local mosquito transmission in one small area of Miami**
  - **Zika testing is recommended for pregnant women who traveled to or lived in this area since June 15, 2016**
  - **Pregnant women, women trying to conceive, and their sexual partners should not travel to this area of Miami until further notice**

August 2, 2016

Dear Colleagues,

As of August 1<sup>st</sup>, the Florida Department of Health has reported 14 cases of Zika virus infection among persons who did not travel and had a common exposure to a 1-mile square area in the Wynwood area north of downtown Miami (see map below). An extensive epidemiologic and entomologic investigation is in progress to determine the extent of Zika activity in this area. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Florida Department of Health are recommending testing of pregnant women who live in, work in, or visited this 1-mile square area since June 15, 2016. As this is an evolving situation, recommendations may change. Check the CDC (<http://www.cdc.gov/zika/>) and Florida Department of Health (<http://www.floridahealth.gov/diseases-and-conditions/zika-virus/>) websites for updated information. Pregnant women, women trying to conceive, and their sexual partners should not travel to this area of Miami until further notice.



**Figure: Area with Active Mosquito Transmission of Zika virus (Wynwood neighborhood north of downtown Miami)**

### Surveillance for Local Mosquito-Borne Zika Virus Transmission in NYC

There is no local transmission of Zika virus in NYC, and the risk remains low. The most common and efficient vector for transmitting Zika virus, the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito, is not present in New York City (NYC). This mosquito is present, however, in Florida and other parts of the southern United States. Although a related *Aedes* mosquito, *Aedes albopictus*, is present in NYC, it is not known to be an efficient vector, and it is not clear whether the ecology and climate of NYC are capable of supporting Zika virus transmission.

To rapidly detect local mosquito transmission during peak mosquito season (July–September), the Health Department requests that all providers be alert for and report concerning cases to the Provider Access Line at 1-866-692-3641. Report persons who meet all of the following criteria:

- Presence of 3 or more of the following symptoms: fever, disseminated maculopapular rash, arthralgia, or conjunctivitis
- No history of travel to an area with active Zika virus transmission
- No history of sex with a person who traveled to an area with active Zika virus transmission
- Older than 5 years
  - Children 5 years and under are not included due to the high prevalence of other viral illnesses with symptoms similar to Zika virus in this age group

The Table below provides a summary of the clinical and epidemiologic criteria to guide consideration of when to test for Zika virus for persons who traveled to affected areas, pregnant women, or if local transmission is suspected.

The Health Department has also enhanced mosquito surveillance citywide for *Aedes* species, including testing mosquitoes for Zika virus by real time reverse transcription-polymerase chain reaction testing (rRT-PCR). To date, Zika virus has not been detected in *Aedes* mosquitos in NYC.

As always, we appreciate your continued collaboration with our Zika virus surveillance efforts in NYC.

Sincerely,



Jay K. Varma, MD  
Deputy Commissioner, Division of Disease Control

### **Resources for more information on Zika virus:**

New York City Health Department: <http://www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/health/health-topics/zika-virus.page>

New York State Health Department: [http://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/zika\\_virus/](http://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/zika_virus/)

CDC: <http://www.cdc.gov/zika/>

Florida Department of Health: <http://www.floridahealth.gov/diseases-and-conditions/zika-virus/>

## WHEN TO TEST FOR ZIKA VIRUS

	Travel-Related	Pregnancy	Local Transmission
<b>SYMPTOMS:</b>	Any one of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rash</li> <li>• Fever</li> <li>• Arthralgia</li> <li>• Conjunctivitis</li> </ul>	Anyone who is pregnant, regardless of symptoms	Three or more of the following in a person >5 years of age: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rash</li> <li>• Fever</li> <li>• Arthralgia</li> <li>• Conjunctivitis</li> </ul>
<b>EXPOSURES:</b>	<b>AND</b>	<b>AND</b>	<b>AND</b>
Travel to or lived in	An area with active Zika transmission* within the preceding 4 weeks	An area with active Zika transmission* anytime during the pregnancy	NO travel to an area with active Zika transmission* within the preceding 4 weeks
	<b>OR</b>	<b>OR</b>	<b>AND</b>
Sexual	Unprotected sex with a partner who traveled to or lived in an area with active Zika virus transmission* within the preceding 4 weeks	Unprotected sex during pregnancy with a partner who traveled to or lived in an area with active Zika virus transmission*	NO unprotected sex within the preceding 4 weeks with a partner who traveled to or lived in an area with active Zika virus transmission*

\*See most up-to-date list on CDC website at: <http://www.cdc.gov/zika/geo/active-countries.html>