



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

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Saturday, January 16, 2016  
(347) 396-4018**

## **Health Department Issues Statement on Zika Virus**

**January 16, 2016** - The City's Health Department is working closely with the CDC to protect New Yorkers from Zika virus, which is transmitted by a type of mosquito common in Central and South America, Mexico and the Caribbean but has not been found in New York City.

There are no cases of Zika virus in New York City, but travelers returning from affected areas are advised to take precautions against mosquitoes to prevent potential spread of the virus. Most people infected with Zika virus do not get sick. Individuals, who become ill, experience symptoms that include fever, rash, joint pain and conjunctivitis, commonly known as pink eye. Illness is usually mild and lasts no more than a week.

Symptoms can be treated, but no vaccine exists for Zika virus. A possible link between Zika virus and congenital birth defects has been found in some babies born to infected mothers. For this reason, until more is known, the CDC has advised pregnant women to avoid travel to the affected areas.

The City's Health Department has issued an alert to providers to look for symptoms in returning travelers, and will continue to monitor the situation. Pregnant women who have traveled to the affected areas and have symptoms of Zika virus should see their health care providers.

For more information, New Yorkers can visit <http://www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/health/health-topics/zika-virus.page> or [CDC.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)."

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