

## **HEALTH ALERT UPDATE**

To: Infection Control – Crusader Community Health, Physician Immediate Care, Rockford Memorial Hospital, St. Anthony’s Medical Center and SwedishAmerican Hospital; Emergency Preparedness Personnel; Emergency Department Directors; Infectious Disease Physicians

From: Todd M. Kisner, MPH - Interim Director for Center of Health Protection and Promotion  
Patty Goodin, RN - Infection Prevention and Control Nurse

Date: 8 February 2016

RE: **CDC Interim Guidelines for Pregnant Women with Possible Zika Virus Exposure**

The Health Department reminds our community partners that Zika virus is reportable in Illinois under the general Communicable Disease arbovirus rules. The link to the rules is [Illinois Control of Communicable Disease Code](#).

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) interim guidance for pregnant women of February 5, 2016, makes changes in the testing guidelines as follows:

- The previous guidance on testing clinically compatible pregnant women returning from travel to affected countries remains unchanged.
- The new guidance includes testing asymptomatic pregnant women within 2-12 weeks after they have returned from travel to affected countries. The interpretation of laboratory results can be complicated due to cross reaction with other flaviviruses. Information about the performance of serologic testing in asymptomatic persons is limited.
- Please review the complete MMWR at:  
[http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/65/wr/mm6505e2er.htm?s\\_cid=mm6505e2er\\_e](http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/65/wr/mm6505e2er.htm?s_cid=mm6505e2er_e)

The CDC has also issued interim guidance on the Prevention of Sexual Transmission of Zika Virus in conjunction with the guidance for pregnant women. Some of the main issues from this MMWR include:

- Men who reside in, or have traveled to, an area where Zika virus transmission is ongoing, and who have a pregnant partner, should abstain from sexual activity or consistently and correctly use condoms during sex throughout the course of the pregnancy.
- At this time, testing men to determine the risk of sexual transmission of Zika virus is not recommended.
- The full text of the MMWR is available at;  
[http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/65/wr/mm6505e1er.htm?s\\_cid=mm6505e1er\\_e](http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/65/wr/mm6505e1er.htm?s_cid=mm6505e1er_e)

Please frequently check the CDC website for updates on Zika virus. Information and guidance can change rapidly. The list of countries with ongoing Zika virus transmission can be found at:  
<http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/page/zika-travel-information> . This list will be updated as new countries are added in central and South America and the Caribbean.

Please share this information with your Prenatal Care Providers, Emergency Department and Clinical Staff.

Should you have any questions, please contact the Health Department at 815-720-4050.

