

## HEALTH ALERT

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: 20 January 2016

RE: **Zika Virus Disease in Illinois Residents**

The Health Department would like to bring to the attention of our Health Care Partners the existence of Zika Virus Disease in Illinois. The Illinois Department of Public Health has reported that two residents of Illinois have tested Zika virus positive at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Both individuals had traveled in late December to a country where Zika virus transmission is ongoing.

Zika virus infection should be considered in patients with:

- Acute onset of fever
- Conjunctivitis
- Maculopapular rash
- Who traveled to areas with ongoing transmission in the two weeks prior to illness onset
- Arthralgia

Zika virus is transmitted by the Aedes species mosquito, which also transmits dengue fever, yellow fever and chikungunya. Outbreaks of Zika virus disease have now spread to central and South America and the Caribbean including Puerto Rico.

Until more is known and out of an abundance of caution, CDC recommends pregnant women should consider postponing travel to any area where Zika virus transmission is ongoing. Pregnant women or women trying to become pregnant who do travel to these areas should talk to their doctors or other healthcare providers first and strictly follow steps to avoid mosquito bites during the trip.

For More Information:

- General information about Zika virus and disease: <http://www.cdc.gov/zika/>
- Travel notices related to Zika virus: <http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices>

**Although Zika virus is not a reportable disease, the WCHD is asking for medical providers to voluntarily report suspect and confirmed cases.**

**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.

