

August 12, 2016

DIRECTIVE: JOB CORPS INFORMATION NOTICE NO. 16-03

TO: ALL JOB CORPS NATIONAL OFFICE STAFF
 ALL JOB CORPS REGIONAL OFFICE STAFF
 ALL JOB CORPS CENTER DIRECTORS
 ALL JOB CORPS CENTER OPERATORS
 ALL NATIONAL TRAINING AND SUPPORT CONTRACTORS
 ALL OUTREACH, ADMISSIONS, AND CTS CONTRACTORS

FROM: LENITA JACOBS-SIMMONS
 National Director
 Office of Job Corps

SUBJECT: Zika Virus Infection

1. Purpose. To inform Job Corps centers about prevention of Zika virus infection, based upon the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) most recent recommendations.
2. Background. Zika virus is spread primarily through the bite of infected Aedes mosquitoes, an aggressive species that bites during the day as well as at night, and has been difficult to eradicate. These mosquitoes have transmitted Zika infection in Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and Florida, with further spread likely in the continental United States. These are the same mosquitoes that spread dengue and chikungunya viral infections. Mosquitoes become infected when they feed on a person already infected with the virus. Infected mosquitoes can then spread the virus to other people through bites.

Zika can also be transmitted sexually by infected men and women, from a pregnant woman to her developing fetus, and by blood transfusion. The virus is present in the blood of an infected individual for up to 1 week, but may be found in semen for several weeks. Once a person has been infected, he or she is likely to be protected from future Zika infections.

Experts believe that up to 80 percent of people who contract Zika infection do not show symptoms. Even people who do show symptoms typically only experience a few days of rash, fever, body aches, and red eyes. The illness is usually mild, with symptoms lasting for several days to a week. Several cases of Guillain-Barre syndrome have been attributed to Zika infection. Guillain-Barre leads to a gradual, and usually, temporary paralysis, but some patients may require breathing machines and monitoring in an intensive care unit.

Increasing evidence suggests that Zika virus infection during pregnancy can cause serious birth defects, including a condition called microcephaly, in which children are born with underdeveloped brains and abnormally small heads. Zika infection may also increase the risk of miscarriage. CDC, therefore, recommends special precautions for pregnant women.

3. Action. **Prevention Strategies**

Staff and Students:

- There is currently no vaccine to prevent Zika virus infection and no specific medication to treat the infection. The best way to prevent disease's spread by mosquitoes is to prevent mosquito bites.
- Wear long-sleeve shirts and long pants.
- Treat clothing and gear with the insecticide permethrin or wear pre-treated items. Permethrin-treated clothing will continue to protect after multiple washings. See product information to find out how long the protection will last.
- Use Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)-registered insect repellents with one of the following active ingredients: DEET, picaridin, IR3535, or oil of lemon eucalyptus (OLE) or para-menthane-diol (PMD). Always follow the product label instructions. When used as directed, these insect repellents are proven safe and effective even for pregnant and breastfeeding women. If using sunscreen, apply sunscreen first and insect repellent second.
- Use screens on windows and doors. Repair holes in screens to keep mosquitoes outside. Do not leave doors propped open.
- Use air conditioning when available.
- Sleep under a mosquito bed net if air conditioned or screened rooms are not available or if sleeping outdoors.
- Prevent sexual transmission of Zika infection by consistently using condoms or by not having sex.
- Women who do not want to get pregnant **and** their partners should use the most effective birth control methods correctly and consistently.
- Pregnant women with concerns about Zika exposure or Zika symptoms should promptly seek advice from their obstetricians.

Center Maintenance Staff:

- Mosquitoes lay eggs near water. Once a week, empty and scrub, turn over, cover, or throw out items that hold water, such as tires, buckets, planters, toys, pools, birdbaths, flowerpots, or trash containers. Check inside and outside buildings.
- Tightly cover water storage containers (buckets, cisterns, rain barrels) so that mosquitoes cannot get inside to lay eggs. For containers without lids, use wire mesh with holes smaller than an adult mosquito. Consider use of larvicides to treat large containers of water that will not be used for drinking, and cannot be covered or emptied.
- Mosquitoes rest in dark, humid areas. Consider use of an outdoor insect spray or fogger to kill mosquitoes. When using insecticides, always follow label instructions.
- Consult with local public-health authorities regarding aerial spraying or indoor use of insecticides.

Reporting

- Any cases of suspected or confirmed Zika infection on center must be reported to public-health authorities, and a Significant Incident Report should be completed.

Addressees are to ensure this Information Notice is distributed to all appropriate staff.

4. Resources.

- <http://www.cdc.gov/zika/> - overview and updates
- <http://www.cdc.gov/zika/hc-providers/index.html> - information for health-care providers
- <http://www.cdc.gov/zika/pregnancy/index.html> - information for pregnant women
- <http://www.cdc.gov/zika/comm-resources/index.html> - videos, infographics, printed materials, toolkits, and podcasts

5. Expiration Date. Until superseded.

6. Inquiries. Inquiries should be directed to Johnetta Davis at (202) 693-8010 or davis.johnetta@dol.gov.