



ALLEGANY COUNTY

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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To: All Allegany County Media
From: Theresa Moore, Supervising Public Health Educator and Public Information Officer
RE: Zika Virus
Date: February 22, 2016

Below please find a news release on Zika Virus. Please release this information, as soon as possible. Thank you for your assistance and cooperation. If you have any questions or need more information, please send the request in writing to me at mooretk@alleganyco.com or by fax at 585-268-9264.

Allegany County residents may be wondering about the Zika virus you have heard about in the news. The New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) has launched a Zika virus information line, 1-888-364-4723, which is staffed weekdays from 9am to 6pm for New Yorkers to call and learn more about the virus. If you have traveled to Zika virus affected countries and have symptoms you should contact your health care provider. The most common symptoms of Zika virus are fever, rash, joint pain, or conjunctivitis (red eyes). See your doctor if you are pregnant and you or your partner has traveled to a country where Zika virus cases have been reported. Be sure to tell your health care provider where you traveled. Visit this website for up to date information about affected counties, <http://www.cdc.gov/zika/geo/>.

Those who travel to one of these areas should talk to their doctor first and strictly follow steps to avoid mosquito bites during the trip, including:

- Dressing in long-sleeved shirts and long pants
- Staying indoors when mosquitoes are most active
- Using repellent products registered with the US Environmental Protection Agency
- Not overusing repellent – only applying as much as needed to provide protection
- Reading and following label directions before you use any kind of repellent

Spring is around the corner. Allegany County residents should remember to use these tips to protect themselves from mosquito bites. In addition, Allegany County residents are urged to prevent standing water to decrease our mosquito population in the following ways:

- Dispose of used tires, tin cans, plastic containers, ceramic pots or similar containers in which water collects.
- Drill holes in the bottoms of recycling containers that are kept outdoors. Make sure roof gutters drain properly and clean clogged gutters in the spring and fall.
- Turn over plastic wading pools and wheelbarrows when not in use and change the water in bird baths twice a week.
- Clean vegetation and debris from the edges of ponds.
- Clean and chlorinate swimming pools, outdoor saunas and hot tubs, and drain water from pool covers.

For more information go to www.alleganycountyhealth.com and click on the Zika virus fact sheet or call the Allegany County Department of Health at 585-268-9250.