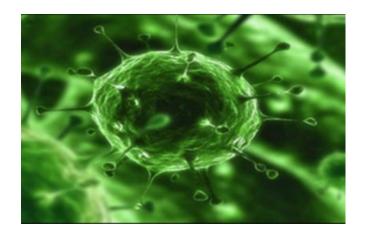
# Zika Virus – Occupational Health and Safety Information for Researchers

#### 2016



#### Zika Virus

- Flavivirus related to dengue.
  - Previously found in Africa, southern Asia and the Pacific Islands.

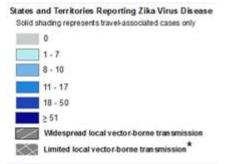
- Current outbreak (late 2015-present) is in South America, Papua

New Guinea, and Florida.



http://www.cdc.gov/zika/geo/index.html





### Zika Virus

- Transmitted by mosquitoes that are active during the day.
- Only supportive treatment is available.



### **Symptoms**

- Symptoms are usually mild, and only seen in 18% of cases
- Similar to influenza
  - Low-grade fever
  - Joint pain
  - Swollen joints
  - Headache
  - Rash
  - Fatigue, weakness



# **Potential High Risk Complication**

- In adults, unconfirmed reports of increased incidence of Guillain-Barre syndrome (GBS) in previous outbreaks
  - Development of GBS may require co-infection with Zika and Dengue viruses
  - Paralysis
  - Loss of muscle function



# **Potential Reproductive Hazard**

- Infection with Zika virus poses developmental hazard to fetuses exposed in utero
  - Data indicates Zika can cause microcephaly, other fetal brain abnormalities
- Risk of Sexual transmission
  - Zika virus persists in semen and other body fluids (e.g. urine, feces, saliva)
    - Confirmed male to female and female to male transmission
    - Emerg Infect Dis. 2011 May; 17(5): 880–882. doi: 10.3201/eid1705.101939



#### Recommendations

- Personnel handling cultures or animals infected with Zika virus should be aware of the potential reproductive hazard for:
  - Women of childbearing age or who are or plan to become pregnant and/or whose partners plan to become pregnant
  - Potential transmission of infection from sexual activity

http://www.cdc.gov/zika/hcproviders/clinicalguidance/sexualtransmission.html

#### Recommendations

- Laboratories where Zika virus is in use should be posted with signage indicating use of a reproductive hazard
- Personnel with questions or concerns are encouraged to contact Employee Health Services and/or their personal physician
- Any potential exposure must be reported immediately to Employee Health Services

### **Additional Resources**

CDC Zika Virus Resources:
<a href="http://www.cdc.gov/zika/index.html">http://www.cdc.gov/zika/index.html</a>

### **CAUTION**

### Zika virus in use

#### Potential reproductive hazard

Questions: Contact Principal Investigator

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