

Carroll County Health Department

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Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Carroll County Health Department to hold Zika Awareness Week events

Westminster, MD (April 22, 2016) – In accordance with Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan’s proclamation of April 24-30 as Maryland Zika Awareness Week, the county health department will be hosting a series of activities to inform county residents how to minimize their risk for the mosquito-borne virus. Though there are currently no cases of Zika transmitted by mosquitoes in the United States, we may see limited Zika transmission in the U.S. as the weather gets warmer.

Zika Awareness Week is part of Maryland’s effort to raise awareness about the virus and about prevention. Throughout this week, local health departments across the state will be scheduling activities in their respective communities.

“We want to help our residents learn how to prevent mosquito bites, get rid of mosquito breeding sites around their homes, and make educated choices about travel and pregnancy,” said Carroll County Health Officer Ed Singer.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have stated – because transmission has chiefly occurred through the bite of the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito – that preventing mosquito bites is the best way to prevent infection.

The CDC also has confirmed that people who have traveled to countries where the virus is actively transmitted (the Caribbean, Central American and South American countries) should abstain from unprotected sexual activity, especially if their partner is a woman who is pregnant or who could become pregnant. For more information on prevention for pregnant women, visit the CDC at <http://www.cdc.gov/zika/pregnancy/protect-yourself.html>.

As of today, Maryland has had nine confirmed cases of Zika virus infection. All have been related to travel from areas of ongoing transmission; none have involved local transmission.

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County health department Zika Awareness Week activities include:

- Providing informational materials and Zika Awareness kits to obstetricians in Carroll County to distribute to their patients
- Setting up a display with Zika and mosquito control information at the Carroll County Office Building, 225 North Center Street, Westminster, on Monday, April 25th and Wednesday, April 27th, from 9:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
- Offering Zika and mosquito control information at the Carroll County Health Department, 290 South Center Street, Westminster
- New Zika information and “Fight the Bite” page on the Carroll County Health Department website, cchd.maryland.gov
- Daily Facebook posts on the Carroll County Health Department's Facebook page

The Carroll County Health Department is also working with state and local partners to control mosquitoes and prepare to respond to any possible Zika transmission in Carroll County.

For questions about mosquito control, call the Carroll County Health Department’s Environmental Health Bureau at 410-876-1884. For questions about testing people for Zika, call the Nursing Bureau at 410-876-4900.

The impact of Zika may change over time. Stay up to date by checking these websites regularly, or visiting the Carroll County Health Department Facebook page.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention www.cdc.gov/zika

Carroll County Health Department <http://cchd.maryland.gov/zika/>

Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
<http://phpa.dhmh.maryland.gov/pages/zika.aspx>

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The Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene is the state government agency that protects Maryland’s public health. We work together to promote and improve the health and safety of all Marylanders through disease prevention, access to care, quality management, and community engagement. Stay connected: www.twitter.com/MarylandDHMH and www.facebook.com/MarylandDHMH.