

# State of New Jersey

## Emergency Medical Dispatch Guidecards



February 5, 2016

### ALERTS

Zika Virus

Approved by:

State of New Jersey Department of Health, Office of Emergency Medical Services

<http://www.state.nj.us/health/ems>

Adopted by:

State of New Jersey, Office of Information Technology, Office of Emergency Telecommunications Services

<http://www.nj.gov/911>

### ALERTS

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#### Zika

**Signs and symptoms** fever, rash, joint pain, and conjunctivitis (red eyes).

No locally transmitted Zika cases have been reported in the continental United States, but cases have been reported in returning travelers.

The virus causes a mild illness that can last days to weeks: fever, rash, body aches, conjunctivitis. Even the most severe forms do not require hospitalization. The big problem is pregnant women. The virus does cross the placenta and affect the developing fetus, causing microcephaly and other

severe birth defects. Pregnant women or women planning to become pregnant should avoid travelling to endemic areas. So far what we know is that while active with the virus, it can cause birth defects. Once you are virus free, there are no reported fetal effects. It can be sexually transmitted and has been found live after two weeks in semen

**Current outbreaks reported in Central and South America, Samoa (Oceania/Pacific Islands), Suriname, U.S. Virgin Islands and Cape Verde (Africa).**

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

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Anyone from the general public with questions about Zika should be instructed to call the **Infectious Disease Hotline 1-800-962-1253** (NJ Poison Control)