



Santa Cruz County Health Services

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Arizona's First Zika Case recorder in traveler

Risk of virus spread throughout the state is low

Nogales – The Santa Cruz County Health Services has received information that the Arizona Department of Health Services and the Maricopa County Department of Public Health confirmed yesterday the state's first case of Zika virus in a Maricopa County resident. The adult traveled outside of the United States to a Zika affected area before developing symptoms of illness.

Santa Cruz County does not have any confirmed or probable cases of Zika at this time. The Zika virus is a type of flavivirus that is primarily transmitted by the bite of an infected mosquito. A link has been identified between the virus and birth defects among infants of infected mothers.

Most people infected with the Zika virus do not become ill, and those who do become ill have symptoms that may include fever, rash, joint pain, and conjunctivitis. Severe illness and hospitalization due to the Zika virus is rare.

The Santa Cruz County Health Services strongly recommends those who travel to Zika affected areas wear insect-repellent and take precautions to avoid mosquito bites for at least a week when they return, even if they have no signs of illness, not just to protect themselves but to protect their families and the community.

The Santa Cruz County Health Services Environmental Health in collaboration with the Santa Cruz County Public Health Emergency Preparedness & Response Program are prepared to initiate the Outbreak Response Plan to any suspect case of mosquito-borne disease that is not yet circulating in Santa Cruz County. This plan includes enhance surveillance for mosquitoes and humans with appropriate vector control measures to ensure the disease does not spread locally.

Environmental Health Services set traps to monitor and treat areas that have routinely been mosquito breeding sites to help minimize the risk of mosquito-borne diseases.

Zika virus can be transmitted by several *Aedes* species mosquitos, and Arizona is home to one of these – *Aedes aegypti*. Although the mosquito is found in many part of the state, there is no evidence of Zika transmission within Arizona.

Arizona communities typically experience mosquito activity in the warmer months, with highest mosquito activity during monsoon season from June through September. The Arizona Department of Health Services is working with local and federal agencies to coordinate Zika preparedness and response plans.

Preventing mosquito bites, both at home and when traveling, is important to prevent disease spread. Mosquito repellants that contain DEET on the label are recommended. Around the home, drain and remove all containers of water and wipe the inside of the container to make sure the eggs are not stuck to the inside. Containers with water provide a good breeding ground for mosquito eggs.

Unlike other species of mosquitos that come out at night the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito can be out during all times of the day or night.

For more information on Zika in Arizona, please visit <http://azhealth.gov/zika>.