

# What You Should Know About Zika

## What is Zika?

- **Symptoms:** Zika is a virus. Most people with Zika don't have symptoms. When they do, the most common ones are fever, rash, joint pain, and red eyes. Make sure you tell a doctor or nurse if you or your sex partner have any of these symptoms. Zika can also cause serious problems in pregnancy.
- **How it's spread:** Mostly from mosquitos. But it can also be spread from a pregnant woman to her baby and through semen during anal, oral, or vaginal sex.
- **Where it is:** Right now, it's mostly in Central and South America, Mexico and the Caribbean as well as Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

## How can I prevent Zika?

- **Avoid traveling to areas where there is active Zika.** If you can't, avoid mosquito bites by using bug spray, keeping windows closed, and wearing protective clothes.
- **If you are not trying to get pregnant** and you or your partner travel to an area with active Zika, use condoms during vaginal, anal, or oral sex.
- **If you are trying to get pregnant** and you or your partner travel to an area with active Zika, use condoms for at least 8 weeks before trying. If your partner has Zika, use condoms for at least 6 months after their symptoms started before trying.
- **If you are pregnant** and your partner lives in or travels to an area with active Zika, use condoms every time you have vaginal, anal, or oral sex for the rest of the pregnancy.

If you have questions about preventing pregnancy, Planned Parenthood can help.

## How does Zika affect pregnancies?

Zika does not always cause serious problems in pregnancy - but no one can predict which pregnancies will be affected. If you have Zika while you are pregnant, it can cause:

- Miscarriage.
- Microcephaly and other serious brain problems in your baby.
- Eye problems, hearing loss, seizures, and growth problems in your baby.

## Should I get tested?

- **If you may have been exposed to Zika and have symptoms, get tested.** Planned Parenthood staff can help you decide if you should be tested.
- **If you test positive and are pregnant,** your prenatal care doctor or nurse will check the pregnancy. Microcephaly can be hard to find before the third trimester.

## Is there a cure for Zika?

At this time there is no treatment or vaccine for Zika.

## Want more info?

Visit [www.plannedparenthood.org](http://www.plannedparenthood.org) to find the closest health center to you.

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