

Zika is a virus transmitted by the bite of the mosquito to humans and from human to human. Only 1 in 5 people infected with Zika will show symptoms such as fever, rash and joint pain. Zika has been linked to microencephaly in babies who contracted the virus from their mothers while pregnant. The [CDC](#) is also investigating a correlation of Zika with Guillain-Barré syndrome, an uncommon sickness of the nervous system.

Should You Be Concerned About Zika?

- **First - are you in a risk zone?** *Aedes* species are not everywhere. There are two species, *Aedes aegypti* and *Aedes albopictus* that to the best of current knowledge are the only species capable of actively vectoring, or transmitting, the Zika virus, (with *albopictus* vectoring only seen in the lab, to date)

Approximate distribution of *Aedes aegypti* in the United States*



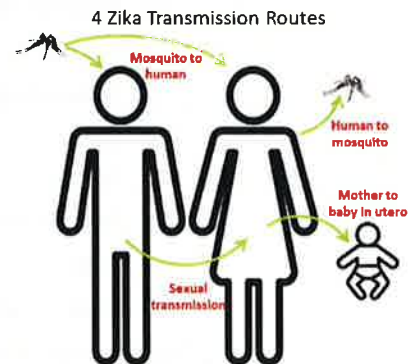
Approximate distribution of *Aedes albopictus* in the United States*



*Maps were developed using currently available information. Mosquito populations may be detected in areas not shaded on this map, and may not be consistently found in all shaded areas.

- **Humans are reservoirs and can transmit Zika.** This bears repeating. With all other mosquito borne viruses humans were 'dead end' hosts, if infected, we could not transmit the virus. Not the case with Zika. If infected with Zika, **people can transmit Zika four ways:**

- **Sexual transmission** from a man to a woman
- **Blood transfusion**
- **In utero** from an infected mother to fetus
- **To biting female mosquitoes**



To date, The human cases you have read about in the U.S. to date have all been 'imported' travel cases, i.e. the individual had traveled to South America, bitten there and became symptomatic once returning to the states.

- **Not your West Nile mosquitoes**
 - Both *Aedes aegypti* and *Aedes albopictus* like to **lay eggs in very small amounts of water**. That's how they earned their 'container breeder' nickname -- you can find their eggs in items as small as a bottle cap. They love standing water, therefore **any type of container** is a potential breeding site, e.g. Trays of flower pots, bird baths, standing water in gutters, downspout drains, rain barrels, still ponds, junk piles.
 - They **like to live in residential areas** and **bite during the day**. . . just the opposite of the night-biting mosquitoes that can carry West Nile Virus.
 - In fact, *Aedes aegypti* **prefer to rest inside at night**. Leave your garage door up? That's a wide open invitation to *Ae. aegypti*. Carports, sheds and other out buildings are all desired resting spots too.

Everyone Needs to Fight Zika Together.

If you live in an area where *Aedes aegypti* or *Aedes albopictus* are found, you need to do your part to keep your property free of potential breeding sites. Remember – these species like to lay eggs in as little as a teaspoon of water and can hatch in just 3 to 4 days. More importantly, the **Aedes mosquitoes that breed in your yard generally stay near your yard** – reducing breeding spots helps protect your family.

- **Be Zika free, check every three.** **Every three days**, residents should check their yards for potential breeding sites.

Tip and toss water found in:

- Flower pot trays
- Planter boxes
- Bird baths
- Kiddie pools
- Sandbox and yard toys
- Wheel barrows
- Watering cans

Remove trash or junk from yard that can hold water:

- Abandoned tires
- Trash
- Unused lawn furniture or grills
- Cans
- Bottles
- Food containers
- Lids
- Open trash cans

Check gutters and drain tubes (especially ridged tubing)

Treat rain barrels with a larvicide from hardware store or nursery