

## What is Zika Virus?

Zika virus is a mosquito-borne flavivirus transmitted by *Aedes aegypti* and *Aedes albopictus* mosquitoes in tropical regions. These mosquitoes are not native to North Dakota. This virus may also be transmitted sexually from males. There is evidence showing the presence of Zika virus in semen.

About 80% of the people infected with Zika are asymptomatic while the other 20% may experience mild flu-like symptoms: fever, joint pain, rash, headache, muscle aches. Symptoms usually last from several days to 1 week.

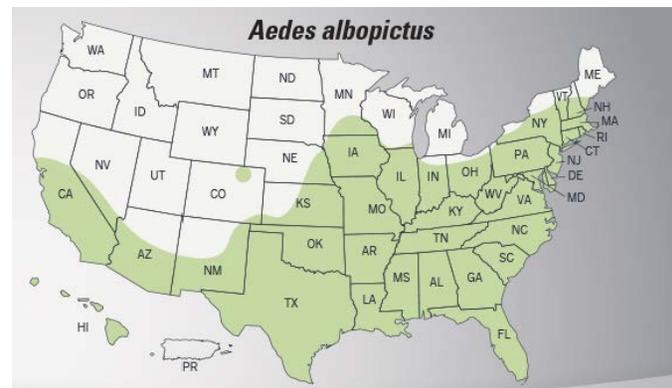


Zika virus is also linked to a severe birth defect known as microcephaly. The CDC and WHO recommend that pregnant women postpone travel to areas with ongoing Zika epidemics.

There is no specific antiviral treatment and no vaccine or prophylactic medications available for this virus. Supportive care is recommended. Severe disease requiring hospitalization is uncommon and fatalities are rare. Although, Guillain-Barre syndrome has been reported in patients following suspected Zika virus infection.

## Estimated range of *Aedes aegypti* and *Aedes albopictus*

These maps show CDC's best estimate of the potential range of *Aedes aegypti* and *Aedes albopictus* in the United States. These maps include areas where mosquitoes are or have been previously found. Shaded areas on the maps do not necessarily mean that there are infected mosquitoes in that area. SOURCE: Zika: Vector Surveillance and Control. [www.cdc.gov/zika/vector/index.html](http://www.cdc.gov/zika/vector/index.html)



### More information about Zika:

Centers for Disease Control

[www.cdc.gov/zika/](http://www.cdc.gov/zika/)

Pan American Health Organization

[www.paho.org](http://www.paho.org)

World Health Organization

[www.who.int/emergencies/zika-virus/en/](http://www.who.int/emergencies/zika-virus/en/)

North Dakota Department of Health

[www.ndhealth.gov/disease/zika/](http://www.ndhealth.gov/disease/zika/)

## What is microcephaly?

Microcephaly is a condition where a baby's head is much smaller than expected. During pregnancy, a baby's head grows because the baby's brain grows. Microcephaly can occur because a baby's brain has not developed properly during pregnancy or has stopped growing after birth, which results in a smaller head size. Microcephaly can be an isolated condition, meaning that it can occur with no other major birth defects, or it can occur in combination with other major birth defects.

## What is severe microcephaly?

Severe microcephaly is a more serious, extreme form of this condition where a baby's head is much smaller than expected. Severe microcephaly can result because a baby's brain has not developed properly during pregnancy, or the brain started to develop correctly and then was damaged at some point during pregnancy.



Baby with Typical Head Size



Baby with Microcephaly



Baby with Severe Microcephaly

For more information about Grand Forks Mosquito Control visit our website at [www.gfmosquito.com](http://www.gfmosquito.com) or call 701-787-8110.



## The Real Risk Of Mosquito-borne Disease

**West Nile virus (WNV) is a real risk for the people in North Dakota.** WNV is an infection transmitted by mosquitoes and the mosquito most common for transmitting this virus is one that is widespread throughout North Dakota. People of all ages are susceptible to WNV infection, but the elderly are at higher risk for developing the more severe form of this disease (neuroinvasive illness).

**The best way to prevent West Nile virus infection is to avoid mosquito bites.**

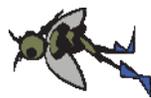
- Use mosquito-repellant products containing DEET.
- Wear long sleeves and pants.
- Eliminate any standing water from your property, such as trash bins, plant saucers, rain gutters, buckets, etc.



### Risk factors for WNV:

- Time of year: Most WNV cases occur from July - September.
- Geographic region: The Dakotas have reported some of the highest cases per capita in the United States.
- Time spent outdoors not wearing protective clothing and mosquito repellent: If you work or spend a lot of time outdoors (golfing, gardening, hunting, etc.), you're at a higher risk of being bitten by mosquitoes.
- Proximity: If you live in an area where WNV has already been identified or near mosquito larval habitat.
- If you have a weakened immune system.

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What you should know