



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 29, 2016

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Health Department Reports First Confirmed Case of the Zika Virus in the County

PITTSBURGH – The Allegheny County Health Department (ACHD) today reported the first confirmed case of the Zika virus (Zika) in the county.

The individual who contracted Zika is a male who had traveled to an affected area. The individual was tested in February, but results only arrived today. A total of 50 residents have been approved for Zika testing to date. Today's result has been the only confirmed case to date.

"We want to remind residents that there is no current risk of contracting Zika in Allegheny County. For those traveling to countries affected by Zika, we urge caution. Pregnant women particularly should avoid travel to affected countries." said Dr. Karen Hacker, Director of the Allegheny County Health Department."

The Zika virus is primarily transmitted through the bite of an infected *Aedes* species mosquito, which is common in warm climates. The most common symptoms of Zika are fever, rash, joint pain, and conjunctivitis (red eyes). The illness is usually mild with symptoms lasting for several days to a week, although the majority of persons infected with the virus do not have any symptoms. Zika virus infection has been linked to fetal malformations. There is no vaccine to prevent, or medicine to treat, Zika virus infection.

While local mosquito transmission of Zika has not been documented in Allegheny County or Pennsylvania, residents are still urged to protect themselves from insect borne infections as the weather gets warmer. Insect repellent containing DEET should be used, and removing standing water from property can also help to alleviate mosquito breeding.

Ongoing updates on additional confirmed cases will be posted on the Health Department's [website](#). Additional resources, including links to the PA Department of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, may also be found on the site. The page also contains information on the number of residents tested, and the number of confirmed cases of the virus.

Individuals who have traveled to affected areas who have not been tested, but want to know if they should be tested, should contact their primary physician, or may call the Allegheny County Health Department at 412-687-ACHD (2243).

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