

What you need to know about

Zika



Virus transmission

- Vectors are infected *Aedes* mosquitoes
- *Aedes* mosquitoes also transmit dengue, chikungunya and yellow fever
- Sexual transmission
- Maternal–fetal transmission



Potential complications

- Microcephaly
- Guillain-Barré syndrome
- Fetal neurological disorders



Diagnosis

- Diagnosis can be confirmed by laboratory testing for the presence of Zika virus RNA or specific anti-Zika antibodies in the blood.

Prevention

- Protection against mosquito bites
- Vector control measures



Messages for health workers

Signs and symptoms

Signs and symptoms most commonly include:

- skin rash
- mild fever
- conjunctivitis
- joint pain and swelling
- muscle pain.

Illness lasts 2–7 days.



Treatment

- No vaccine currently available
- Mild self-limiting disease requiring rest, fluids and painkillers

Action to take if Zika infection suspected

- Ask patient if they have travelled to an area with ongoing Zika transmission.
- Record reply in patient's notes.
- Treat the patient.
- Notify the disease surveillance officer within 24 hours.

