

**Mission:**

To protect, promote & improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county & community efforts.



**Rick Scott**  
Governor

**John H. Armstrong, MD, FACS**  
State Surgeon General & Secretary

**Vision:** To be the Healthiest State in the Nation

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Dr. Karen Harris

American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG), District XII

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Dear ACOG Members:

The Florida Department of Health (Department) would like to ensure you are aware of a recent Level-2 travel alert (practice enhanced precautions) targeted toward women who are pregnant or who are trying to become pregnant, and who are considering travel to Mexico, Central or South American or the Caribbean including Puerto Rico. This alert was issued due to concerns related to linkages between infection with a mosquito-borne pathogen, Zika virus, and microcephaly in the fetus. **We request that you ask your patients about travel history during pregnancy and whether they experienced any associated illness to help determine whether testing for Zika fever is recommended.** Included with this letter are:

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Travel Alert
- CDC Interim Guidelines for Pregnant Women During a Zika Virus Outbreak—United States, 2016 MMWR
- Zika virus one-pager for clinicians focusing on diagnosis and testing
- Zika virus one-pager for obstetricians focusing on prevention
- Mosquito bite prevention information for travelers in English and Spanish

This is an evolving situation. The Department will provide updates in guidance and recommendations to ACOG, local hospitals and other providers. It is anticipated that there will be additional guidance issued in the near future related to infants with Zika virus infection as well as a national call for clinicians hosted by the CDC's Clinician Outreach and Communication Activity: <http://emergency.cdc.gov/coca/index.asp>. Additional resources you may find useful:

- Current Zika virus information from CDC: <http://www.cdc.gov/zika/>
- Florida mosquito-borne disease information including weekly surveillance reports: <http://www.floridahealth.gov/diseases-and-conditions/mosquito-borne-diseases/index.html>
- CDC international travel information and travel notices: <http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/Travel>
- Contact information for county and state DOH: <http://www.floridahealth.gov/diseases-and-conditions/disease-reporting-and-management/index.html>

Please share this information with any midwives or other relevant partners. The Department's Bureau of Epidemiology and our county health departments are available to assist you with questions about Zika virus testing protocols and sample submission requests.

Best Regards,

Anna Marie Likos, MD, MPH  
State Epidemiologist and Director  
Division of Disease Control and Health Protection

**Florida Department of Health**

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