

ZIKA

Zika virus disease, also called zika fever, is caused by a virus transmitted primarily by *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes.



First identified in Ugandan monkeys in 1947, then in humans in 1952, the Zika virus was almost dormant for six decades.



Global outbreaks in 2015 were recorded in Africa, the Americas, Asia and the Pacific, with Brazil reporting an association between Zika virus infection during pregnancy and babies born with microcephaly and Guillain-Barré syndrome.

On 1 February 2016, the World Health Organization declared the Zika virus a Public Health Emergency of International Concern.

Causes of Zika

Zika is caused by a virus transmitted primarily by *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes, which bite during the day usually just after sunrise and around sunset.

Symptoms of Zika

-  **HEADACHE**
-  **CONJUNCTIVITIS**
-  **RASH**
-  **HIGH FEVER**
-  **MUSCLE AND JOINT ACHES**

Most people with Zika virus infection do not develop symptoms; for those who do, symptoms tend to last for two to seven days.

In some cases, women who are infected by Zika virus during pregnancy bear children with serious health conditions, including microcephaly and Guillain-Barré syndrome, which can cause life-long disability.

More about Zika

Zika is a mosquito-borne disease caused by the Zika virus. Here are answers to some frequently asked questions about this disease and its symptoms, treatments and prevention techniques.

Where does Zika occur?

It is possible to contract Zika in Africa, the Americas, Asia and the Pacific.

Approximately 84 countries are affected.

How many people have been affected by Zika?

Since 2015, more than 500,000 suspected cases of Zika have been reported, with 3521 recorded cases of congenital brain abnormalities associated with the disease.

How does Zika spread?

Zika can spread where *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes are present. It is a human virus transmitted primarily by this mosquito, which is commonly found around homes and urban areas.

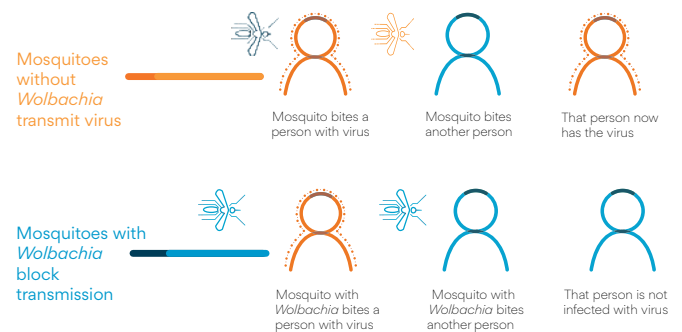
How is Zika treated?

There is no treatment for Zika, other than rest and management of symptoms with common medicines. The Zika virus is only active in an individual for approximately seven days.

How can we help prevent Zika?

There is no vaccine for the Zika virus.

However, the World Mosquito Program's *Wolbachia* method is showing promising results internationally. It is helping to block the transmission of Zika, as well as other viruses transmitted by *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes, such as dengue, chikungunya and yellow fever.



How can I find out more about Zika?

Contact your local health authority for guidance. Or, for general information, read the Zika virus fact sheet from the World Health Organization.

[READ THE ZIKA FACT SHEET FROM THE WHO](#)

About us

The World Mosquito Program is an international, not-for-profit initiative that works to protect the global community from mosquito-borne diseases including dengue, Zika, chikungunya and yellow fever.

Our approach has widespread support from communities, governments, research institutes and philanthropic partners around the world. Through collaboration and innovation, we can make a difference to millions of lives.

Currently the World Mosquito Program works in 12 countries in Asia, the Pacific and the Americas. Our ambition is to protect 100 million people at US\$1 per person by 2023.

In addition to the Oceania Office in Melbourne, Australia, the World Mosquito Program has a regional Asian Hub in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam and plans for an Americas Hub in Panama City, Panama. These hubs support projects in their respective regions and contribute to core global operations.

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