

# HEALTH ALERT

To: Travel Partners - AAA Travel Agency, Belles World Travel, Camelot World Travel, Chicago Rockford International Airport, Hutchins World Travel, Illinois International Travel, Lindstrom Travel, Morrison Travel, Rockford Area Convention and Visitor's Bureau, Vacation's by Veronica

From: Todd M. Kisner, MPH - Director of the Center for Health Protection  
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Date: 15 March 2016

RE: **Zika Virus Travel Advisory**

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The Health Department in association with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends special precautions for travelers who are touring areas with active Zika Virus Disease. To learn more about those areas with Zika Virus, please refer to the current listing provided by the CDC at <http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/page/zika-information>.

The Health Department offers the following guidance in the prevention of Zika Virus transmission.

### **Prevention of Zika Virus for travelers:**

- Use insect repellent to avoid mosquito bites. Look for the following active ingredients in repellents: DEET, picaridin, IR3535, oil of lemon eucalyptus and permethrin-treated products.
- Cover exposed skin by wearing long-sleeved shirts, long pants, and hats.
- Stay and sleep in screened or air-conditioned rooms.
- Use a bed net if the area where you are sleeping is exposed to the outdoors.
- Daytime is the most dangerous time. Mosquitoes that spread chikungunya, dengue, and Zika are aggressive daytime biters. They can also bite at night.

### **Travel advice for women who are pregnant or looking to become pregnant:**

- Pregnant women should consider postponing travel to the areas where Zika virus is ongoing. Areas such as: Mexico, Caribbean (including U. S Territories), Central & South America.
- Women trying to become pregnant should consult with their doctor before traveling to these areas.

**Please share this important information with your clients who are traveling to areas with Zika Virus.**

Should you have any questions, please contact the Health Department at 815-720-4050.