



Limited US Population Affected by Zika Virus *What EMS Providers Need to Know*

As you have probably already heard, the viral infection known as Zika has now been detected in the United States. Here a few quick facts about the virus:

- At this time, there are 153 cases of Zika in the United States that were acquired through travel to other affected areas of the world.
- There are no known cases of Zika acquired through vector (mosquito) contact in the United States.
- Zika infection is NOT like Ebola—only standard PPE to protect from contact with bodily fluids is required. The virus is not airborne.
- At this time, there are three confirmed cases of Zika in Maryland.
- There is currently no vaccine for Zika, but it is under development.
- Maryland DHMH and CDC are the lead agencies for information, policy, and management in Maryland. MIEMSS is monitoring their guidance and will alert you of any major developments.

As an EMS care provider you should:

- Treat any presenting symptoms per Maryland Medical Protocols.
- Ask about travel history when assessing ALL your patients.
- Always be vigilant in your use of standard PPE.
 - Change your gloves often.
 - Cover any open skin.
 - Keep your hands away from your face.
 - Wash your hands often.
- Stay Informed. Further resources can be found here:
 - <http://www.miemss.org/home/infectious-diseases>
 - <http://www.cdc.gov/zika/>
 - <http://phpa.dhmh.maryland.gov/Pages/Zika.aspx>