



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Jamie Gerken, PIO
1300 E. Second St., Ste. 100
Defiance, OH. 43512
419-784-3818
gerken@defiance-county.com

Defiance County General Health District Reports Zika Virus Case in Returning Traveler

Defiance, Ohio- Defiance County General Health District is reporting the county's first case of Zika virus in a returning traveler. The Defiance County resident traveled to a Zika virus disease infected country in July and was tested upon return to Defiance after showing symptoms of the Zika virus. The Ohio Department of Health notified Defiance County General Health District of the positive Zika virus test today.

Zika virus is primarily transmitted through the bite of an infected mosquito, and there is no indication that it can spread from person to person through casual contact. It can be spread from a through sexual transmission, so couples should take steps to prevent the spread of Zika virus infection by using a condom.

"This case is a travel associated case, there have been no cases of Zika virus transmitted through mosquitoes in the state of Ohio." said Kimberly Moss, Defiance County Health Commissioner. "There is no vaccine available for Zika virus at this time, so it's important for Ohioans traveling to Zika-affected areas to take steps to prevent mosquito bites, especially pregnant women,"

The primary mosquito (*Aedes aegypti*, called the yellow fever mosquito) that transmits Zika virus is found in the tropics and southern U.S., but it is not known to be established in Ohio. A "relative" of the mosquito (*Aedes albopictus*, called the Asian tiger mosquito) is found in parts of Ohio and may potentially transmit Zika virus.

The Ohio Department of Health website at <http://www.odh.ohio.gov/zika> has more information about Zika virus and links to CDC resources including travel advisories for countries where Zika virus transmission is ongoing.

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