



## Loudoun County Health Department

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May 4, 2016

Greenway Farms  
American Management of Virginia, Inc.  
722 East Market Street, Suite #201  
Leesburg, VA 20176

Dear HOA Manager:

On May 3, 2016, the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors approved the county's Zika Virus Disease Response Plan, available online at [www.loudoun.gov/zika](http://www.loudoun.gov/zika). I am asking you to take steps this spring and summer to help keep your community safe from Zika and West Nile virus, and to minimize nuisance mosquitoes around your community.

The Asian tiger mosquito is the most common cause of mosquito bites in Virginia and is a close cousin of the mosquito transmitting Zika virus throughout Central America, South America and the Caribbean. As opposed to most other mosquitoes in Loudoun County, Asian tiger mosquitoes fly and bite during daylight hours and will enter homes and offices through any open door or window and bite indoors.

These mosquitoes are also different from other species because they lay their eggs exclusively in containers holding a small amount of water (e.g., old tires, buckets, bird baths, gutters and tarps) and do not lay their eggs in "ground pools" of water such as puddles, flooded ditches, ponds, swamps or streams. Consequently, these mosquitoes tend to breed close to where your residents and employees live, walk and play. You can best serve your community by:

- 1. Removing mosquito breeding grounds from common areas.** This includes inspecting the grounds for any old tires, trash, cans, bottles, flower pots, bird baths and other items that can hold water, and either dispose of them or dump the water at least every week. A checklist of container habitats is attached for your convenience. If the container is not drainable, you can treat it with a "larvicide" applied by a licensed pesticide applicator. We may also be engaging volunteers to evaluate common properties for removable breeding grounds; if so, we will let you know.
- 2. Educating your community's residents on steps they can take to stay safe by removing breeding grounds on private property and using personal mosquito repellent.** We can provide hard and electronic copies of materials, if desired, to share with your employees and residents door-to-door or through email, HOA newsletters and websites. More information on removing mosquito breeding grounds is available at [www.loudoun.gov/zika](http://www.loudoun.gov/zika).
- 3. Resisting calls for the widespread use of pesticides to combat mosquitoes and Zika.** The best Asian tiger control efforts involve people going throughout their property and through common areas to find, remove and dump or treat all the container breeding habitats. Insecticides can be sprayed to control adult Asian tiger mosquitoes but unless the container habitats are removed or dumped, a new adult mosquito population will soon replace the controlled mosquitoes. Insecticides should be applied judiciously to prevent harmful environmental effects and harm to beneficial insects and pollinators.
- 4. Contacting us at any time with any questions or for additional information.** You can reach us at [health@loudoun.gov](mailto:health@loudoun.gov) or 703-771-5829.

Sincerely,

David Goodfriend, MD, MPH  
Director

## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

### **What is Loudoun County doing to help keep people safe from Zika?**

The Loudoun County Health Department (LCHD) has been coordinating Zika preparedness and response efforts with the Virginia Department of Health in accordance with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidance. LCHD has been working with the local medical community to best identify people at risk of Zika infection and to coordinate the evaluation of those approved for blood testing. LCHD also has developed response and communication plans. The department is working closely with various stakeholders to inform the community about Zika virus and the steps that people should take to minimize the threat of Zika through various communication channels that include public schools, health care providers, educational brochures, and online platforms, such as social media, e-news, and website.

### **Why is it important to know if a case of Zika was transmitted locally instead of through travel?**

It is important to know about Zika cases related to travel because these people can transmit Zika virus to local Asian tiger mosquitoes. A locally-transmitted case occurs when Asian tiger mosquitoes that are around a person who was infected with Zika abroad bite him or her, and then transmit Zika virus to others in our community.

### **What is Zika virus?**

Zika virus disease is a viral disease spread to people through bites of infected Asian tiger and yellow fever mosquitoes. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), this mosquito-borne disease was first discovered in 1947 and is named after the Zika forest in Uganda. In 1952, the first human cases of Zika were detected and since then, outbreaks of Zika have been reported in tropical Africa, Southeast Asia, and the Pacific Islands. The current outbreak began in Brazil in May 2015 and the virus is now being transmitted locally by mosquitoes in more than 40 countries and territories. No locally-transmitted cases have been reported in the continental U.S. as of May 1, 2016.

### **How do you get Zika?**

Mosquito season in Virginia typically runs May 1 – October 31. Zika is spread to people primarily through the bite of an infected *Aedes* species mosquito. The Asian tiger mosquito (*Aedes albopictus*) is the most common cause of mosquito bites in Virginia and is capable of transmitting Zika. Mosquitoes pick up the virus from an infected human and then can infect another person by biting him or her. The virus can also be transmitted through sex with an infected partner and from mother to unborn child. Pets and other animals are not known to be infected with or to transmit Zika.

### **What are the symptoms of Zika?**

The most common symptoms of Zika are fever, rash, joint pain, and conjunctivitis (red eyes). In some cases there can be headache and joint pain. About 80% of the people who are infected do not become sick or show any symptoms. People with symptoms should consult their doctors.

### **How long do symptoms of Zika last?**

The illness is usually mild with symptoms lasting for several days to a week after being bitten by an infected mosquito. Of those people who do have symptoms, they usually don't get sick enough to go to the hospital and they very rarely die of Zika. For this reason, many people might not realize they have been infected with Zika. Once a person has been infected, he or she is likely to be protected from future infections.

### **How is Zika diagnosed?**

Zika infection is diagnosed by a blood test. Doctors who believe testing is merited should consult their local health department.

### **How serious is a Zika virus infection?**

Among pregnant women, Zika virus can cause a birth defect known as microcephaly. In some cases, the virus has been linked to serious conditions and complications in adults and children, such as Guillain-Barre Syndrome.

### **Why should pregnant women take special precautions to prevent Zika?**

A birth defect called microcephaly is caused by Zika. Microcephaly is a condition that causes a baby's head to be smaller and less developed than most healthy babies and is an indicator that the brain didn't develop properly. Pregnant women should avoid travel to areas where Zika is spreading and take steps to prevent mosquito bites and other exposures to Zika.

### **Where can I learn more about Zika?**

Additional information and online at: [www.loudoun.gov/zika](http://www.loudoun.gov/zika) | [www.vdh.virginia.gov/zika](http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/zika) | [www.cdc.gov/zika](http://www.cdc.gov/zika)



# ELIMINATE BREEDING SITES OF MOSQUITOES THAT CAN CARRY ZIKA VIRUS

Asian tiger mosquitoes lay their eggs (breed) **ONLY** in **CONTAINERS** of water.

They are not in ponds, puddles, ditches or swamps.

Potential Breeding Site	How to Correct
<input type="checkbox"/> Roof gutters	Clean out leaves and debris frequently to ensure water flows freely and does not accumulate.
<input type="checkbox"/> Corrugated pipes for downspout drainage	Grooves in plastic pipes can hold enough water to breed mosquitoes. Treat with a larvicide.
<input type="checkbox"/> Buckets, watering cans, drinking glasses, plastic cups, bottle caps or any trash that can hold water	Store indoors or turn over. If trash, recycle or throw away.
<input type="checkbox"/> Cans and containers	Throw away, store indoors, turn upside down, drill holes in the bottom, or empty after rain showers.
<input type="checkbox"/> Old tires	Recycle or store where they won't collect rainwater. For playground use, drill water drainage holes.
<input type="checkbox"/> Bird baths and decorative fountains	Change the water or flush out and clean with a garden hose at least once a week.
<input type="checkbox"/> Ornamental ponds	Filter/aerate the water with a recirculation pump or treat with a larvicide if needed.
<input type="checkbox"/> Potted plants with saucers	Empty saucers or flush out with garden hose once a week.
<input type="checkbox"/> Dripping outdoor faucets and window air conditioners	If water puddles, repair faucet. Place rocks under window air conditioner to ensure water runoff.
<input type="checkbox"/> Swimming pools	If unused or abandoned, treat with Mosquito Dunks® once a month. Mosquitoes can't breed in maintained swimming pools because of the chemicals used.
<input type="checkbox"/> Children's toys, such as wagons, kiddie pools, sandbox lids, watering cans, etc	Store indoors or in a manner that prevents water accumulation. Note that some toys have inner compartments that can hold water.
<input type="checkbox"/> Tarps, grill covers, and furniture covers	Empty water that collects in folds and sagging areas. Tighten or straighten so water runs off.
<input type="checkbox"/> Wheelbarrows	Turn over when not in use.
<input type="checkbox"/> Under decks, porches or outbuildings	Fill in depressions where water can collect. Remove any container that can collect water.
<input type="checkbox"/> Garbage cans, recycle bins, other barrels	Keep covered or drill drainage holes in bottom. Place lids on garbage cans. Store bins and barrels to allow water runoff.
<input type="checkbox"/> Canoes, boats	Cover with a tight-fitting tarp or store upside down.

For more information, please go to [www.loudoun.gov/zika](http://www.loudoun.gov/zika) or email us at [health@loudoun.gov](mailto:health@loudoun.gov)