



## Cameron County Department of Health and Human Services

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### **First Travel-Related Case of Zika Disease Confirmed in Cameron County**

The Cameron County Department of Health and Human Services announced today the first travel-related case of Zika disease confirmed in Cameron County. A 26 year old pregnant woman from San Benito tested positive for the virus after extensive travel to Mexico.

“Our department is working with health officials in Mexico to investigate this case further and, at this point, all of the available evidence points towards this being a travel related case. The individual is no longer at risk of transmitting the virus by mosquitoes based on our current understanding of how Zika is transmitted,” stated Dr. James W. Castillo, Cameron County Health Authority. “Even so, I do want to remind everyone about the importance of taking precautions. There will always be some risk of Zika transmission anywhere these types of mosquitoes live, especially in communities where people are traveling frequently. As we know how people are able to protect themselves and reduce their risk of Zika, we want the public to be aware and remain vigilant.”

In taking a proactive approach in handling this report, the Cameron County Department of Health and Human Services has initiated their Zika action response plan and is working alongside the local municipalities. “We are aware that this is in all likelihood travel related, but we are being proactive in taking every precaution possible to ensure that the community is educated on the transmission of Zika and its preventive measures,” stated Esmeralda Guajardo, Health Administrator.

CCDHHS continues to emphasize the importance of the following prevention methods:

- Apply EPA-registered mosquito repellent that contains **DEET** (N, N-diethyl-m-toluamide), picaridin, or oil of lemon eucalyptus. Spray exposed skin and clothing with repellent. Be sure to read label instructions on any repellent and use them as directed. Dress protectively by wearing long-sleeved shirts, long pants, socks, and shoes when you are outside. Drain standing water in your backyard and neighborhood; old tires, flowerpots, and clogged rain gutters are mosquito-breeding sites.
- Use air conditioning or window/door screens to keep mosquitoes outside and stay indoors to prevent mosquito bites.
- Keep in mind that mosquitoes that spread the Zika virus bite mostly during the daytime so county residents should use precautions throughout the day. If you are not able to protect yourself from mosquitoes inside your home or hotel, sleep under a mosquito bed net.
- Use protection during sex especially if your partner traveled to an area with Zika or if you are pregnant or considering getting pregnant.

The Cameron County Department of Health and Human Services will continue working with the local municipalities in the education, surveillance and vector activities and will alert the public with any necessary updates.

*For additional information on Zika virus, please visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website at <https://www.cdc.gov/zika/> or the Texas Department of Health Services website at <http://www.texaszika.org/>*

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