



**Cameron County
Department of Health and Human Services**

1390 W. Expressway 83 • San Benito, Texas 78586 • (956) 247-3632 Office • (866) 326-3316 Fax

Esmeralda Guajardo, MAHS, Health Administrator 🏥 *James W. Castillo II, MD, Health Authority*

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Contact: Esmeralda Guajardo at (956) 247-3685

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT: First Probable Zika Virus Disease Case in Cameron County

Cameron County Department of Health and Human Services has been informed by the Texas Department of State Health Services that due to the revisions of the Zika case definition, a travel-related case has been reclassified from unspecified flavivirus to a probable Zika virus disease in Cameron County.

On September 1, 2016, Texas implemented a revised Zika case definition based on the updated Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologist (CSTE) position statement published on July 29, 2016 (http://www.cste.org/resource/resmgr/2016PS/16_ID_01_edited7.29.pdf).

Dr. James W. Castillo, Cameron County Health Authority, would like to note that this case was travel related and not locally acquired, thus, the overall risk of being infected with Zika virus disease in South Texas remains very low and we have no additional evidence that the virus is circulating in the local mosquito population.

CCDHHS is reminding residents to take preventive measures by practicing the following:

- 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 surveillance 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 State Health Services website at <http://www.texaszika.org/>

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