

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
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County monitoring Zika virus situation *Health Department and Mosquito Control Division coordinating efforts*

FREEHOLD, NJ – The Monmouth County Mosquito Control Division and Health Department (MCHD) are actively monitoring the Zika virus (Zika) situation and urges residents to be cautious when traveling to countries where Zika transmission is happening.

Zika virus is spread to people through mosquito bites.

“Currently, there is no evidence of Zika in Monmouth County,” said Freeholder Deputy Director Serena DiMaso. “The County is closely monitoring the situation and is prepared to take action when, and if, necessary.”

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention has issued [travel information](#) for those planning to travel to countries that have reported local transmission of the Zika, including Central America, South America, the Caribbean and Mexico.

“If you are traveling out of the country, make sure to check if there is a threat of Zika in the country you are traveling to and, if so, take the proper precautions to prevent mosquito bites,” said DiMaso.

The most common symptoms of Zika are fever, rash, joint pain, and conjunctivitis (red eyes). The illness is usually mild with symptoms lasting from several days to a week. Severe disease requiring hospitalization is uncommon.

“The Health Department is in constant communication with the CDC and NJ Department of Health regarding the evolving Zika situation,” said Christopher Merkel, Monmouth County Public Health Coordinator. “Residents should actively connect to accurate, well-known and legitimate information sources and dismiss misinformation from non-credible sources.”

“We are learning more about Zika every day,” DiMaso said. “Links to the most current information, including travel notices, are available on the Monmouth County website at www.visitmonmouth.com.”

