

August 19, 2016

Dear members of the university community:

The health of our students, faculty and staff is a top priority. As such, FIU takes the threat posed by Zika seriously. We are not aware of any member of the university community being personally impacted by Zika at this time. However, FIU colleges, schools and units across the university have been proactive about raising awareness and preventing Zika infections:

- Student Affairs has taken the lead in ensuring the health of our student body, by spreading awareness through flyers, social media, the FIU Parent and Family Newsletter and other channels.

Students with concerns about Zika may contact [FIU Student Health Services](#) at 305-348-2401. Faculty, staff and other members of the community may contact [FIU Health](#) 305-348-3627(DOCS).

- FIU Athletics and FIU Health are teaming up at sporting events during the beginning of the fall semester to spread awareness of Zika and mosquito repellent use.
- Our facilities maintenance team continues to be vigilant about addressing any standing water on our campuses where mosquitos can breed. If you see standing water, please report it by calling Facilities Work Management at 305-348-4600.
- Our faculty have taken an important role in educating the community about Zika. Their media interviews on Zika have reached an audience of more than 200 million. FIU faculty also are conducting important research that could help combat Zika. To read about their efforts, please [click here](#).



We also would like to reiterate some important basics about Zika:

- **Transmission:** Zika is transmitted through the bite of an infected mosquito, sexual contact or from mother to child during pregnancy. There is a link between Zika infection during pregnancy and microcephaly in the babies, as well as problems in infants including eye defects, hearing loss, and impaired growth. Pregnant women are advised to be particularly careful to protect themselves against Zika. It cannot be spread “person-to-person” without sexual contact.
- **Prevention:** The best ways to prevent contracting Zika are to:
 - Cover the body with clothing such as pants and long sleeve shirts
 - Use DEET or other mosquito repellents. However, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration counsels that insect repellents containing DEET should not be used in infants under 2 months of age.
 - Check surroundings to ensure there is no standing water, where mosquitoes can breed.
 - Adhere to all CDC warnings and travel restrictions.
- **Symptoms:** Zika symptoms can include rash, joint pains, conjunctivitis (pinkeye) and fever, and tend to subside within a week or two. Most people that are infected won’t have symptoms or show only mild symptoms. There is no specific treatment for Zika at this time.
- **Family planning:** All sexually active persons who are not trying to get pregnant are, as always, strongly encouraged to use contraception, which in many cases may include condom use.

For additional information and resources, please visit the CDC’s [Zika Homepage](#), the Florida Department of Health [Zika Homepage](#) or the [FIU Emergency Management](#) page.

Stay healthy – Prevent mosquito bites.

Cover your skin and wear protective clothing.

Wear repellent.