

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE DATE: June 30, 2016	Contact: Patricia Sweeney
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Mahoning County Residents Test Positive for Zika

The Mahoning County District Board of Health was notified by the Ohio Department of Health that two Mahoning County residents have recently tested positive for the Zika virus. The individuals, one a city resident and one a county resident, have recently been in countries where the Zika virus is prevalent. This brings the number of travel-associated cases in Ohio to 18. There are 822 travel-associated cases in the United States. Currently there are no known cases of Zika virus that have been acquired from mosquitoes within the U.S.

The Zika virus is spread mainly by the bite of the infected mosquito, *Aedes aegypti*, and not by person to person. This mosquito is primarily found in the tropics and in the southern United States. “The species of mosquitoes that carries the Zika virus is not known to be present in Ohio. These local cases are not a threat to the public health of residents in Mahoning County,” says Patricia Sweeney, health commissioner of the Mahoning County District Board of Health.

Of people infected with the Zika virus, 80 percent do not have any symptoms. When symptoms do occur, they begin 2-7 days after being bitten by an infected mosquito. Symptoms are generally mild and usually last no longer than a week. Symptoms include the following:

- Fever
- Rash
- Conjunctivitis (red eyes)
- Joint and muscle pain
- Headache

Severe disease requiring hospitalization is uncommon. However, there is an association between Zika virus and certain birth defects, such as microcephaly, and Guillain-Barre, a condition that attacks the immune system and can cause paralysis.

“Residents who travel to countries where the Zika virus is prevalent should follow travel precautions and prevent mosquito bites,” said Mrs. Sweeney. Locally it is also important to take the necessary precautions to protect yourself from mosquito bites and control the mosquito



population by eliminating standing water, have intact screens on doors and windows, and wearing insect repellent. Mosquitoes can spread other diseases locally, including West Nile Virus and LaCrosse Encephalitis.

For more information about the Zika virus, go to the following websites:

<http://www.mahoninghealth.org/mosquitos/>

<http://www.odh.ohio.gov/odhprograms/bid/zdp/diseases/zika.aspx>

<https://www.cdc.gov/zika/>

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