

Press Release

Provided by Leslie Vann

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Zika Virus

As the school year draws to a close, mosquito season is just beginning. It is important that we all work to prevent the spread of Zika. The Texas Department of State Health Services and the Texas Education Agency have provide the following information.

Zika is primarily spread through mosquito bites (*Aedes aegypti species*). As the weather warms and mosquito activity increases, we expect the threat of local mosquito transmission of Zika to resume and persist. Pregnant women are particularly at risk due to the Zika virus' ability to cause birth defects in unborn infants. We must ensure that their families and their communities are educated on ways they can prevent the spread of Zika. The public health measures we take together will help prevent serious health impacts on the next generation of Texans.

Combatting Zika begins at the local level. When done in concert, these simple steps represent a big step toward preventing the spread of

Zika:

- Apply EPA-approved insect repellent when planning to be outdoors.
- Wear long-sleeved shirts and wear long pants when outdoors for prolonged periods.
- Utilize screens or close windows and doors.
- Regularly remove any standing water in and around your home or school that could provide a breeding ground for mosquitoes.
- Cover trash cans or containers that may collect water.
- Visit your doctor if you suspect you've been exposed to Zika or exhibit any of the symptoms of Zika, which may include fever, rash, joint pain, and red eyes.

For more information, please contact:

TexasZika@dshs.texas.gov.