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Ventura County Public Health Confirms 1st Zika Virus Case

[Ventura County, Calif.] -- Ventura County Public Health (VCPH) today announced the first case of Zika Virus in the county. VCPH Public Health Officer Robert Levin M.D., says that the case occurred in a female who is not suspected of being pregnant. “We will continue to monitor her progress but her symptoms, as with most people who contract Zika Virus, are mild and she did not require hospitalization.”

This case marks the 69th Zika case confirmed in the state.

According to the California Department of Public Health, Zika can be passed sexually from a person with Zika to his or her partners. This includes vaginal, anal, and oral sex and the sharing of sex toys. Zika can be passed even if the person does not have symptoms at the time; it can be passed before symptoms start, while the person is symptomatic, and after symptoms end. The virus may also be passed by a person who becomes infected but never develops symptoms.

Counting this case in Ventura County, as of August 19, 2016, there have now been 171 confirmed Zika Virus cases in California.

While the mosquito that transmits Zika Virus is not thought to exist in Ventura County, residents should use this as an opportunity to protect themselves against mosquito bites and other viral diseases by practicing the “Three Ds”:

1. DEET – Apply insect repellent containing DEET, picaradin, oil of lemon eucalyptus or IR3535 according to label instructions. Repellents keep the mosquitoes from biting you. Insect repellents should not be used on children under two months of age.

2. DAWN AND DUSK – Mosquitoes usually bite in the early morning and evening so it is important to wear proper clothing and repellent if outside during these times. Make sure that your doors and windows have tight-fitting screens to keep out mosquitoes. Repair or replace screens that have tears or holes.

3. DRAIN – Mosquitoes lay their eggs on standing water. Eliminate all sources of standing water on your property by emptying flower pots, old car tires, buckets, and other containers. If you know of a swimming pool that is not being properly maintained, please contact the County mosquito and vector control agency in the Environmental Health Department.

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