

CITY OF BALTIMORE

STEPHANIE RAWLINGS-BLAKE, Mayor



HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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Commissioner of Health
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February 5, 2016

Dear Baltimore City Clinicians,

Please help us with disseminating the following documents to your clinicians.

On February 5th, the Baltimore City Health Department issued a guidance document for local clinicians (please see attached).

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has since released two updated guidance documents that include important changes in recommendations. We have provided an overview of the documents below.

Update: Interim Guidelines for Health Care Providers Caring for Pregnant Women and Women of Reproductive Age with Possible Zika Virus Exposure – United States, 2016

- Testing should be offered to symptomatic **and** asymptomatic pregnant women who have traveled to areas with ongoing Zika virus transmission.

This document is attached and can be accessed on-line at

http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/65/wr/mm6505e2er.htm?s_cid=mm6505e2er_w

Interim Guidelines for Prevention of Sexual Transmission of Zika Virus – United States, 2016

- Since sexual transmission of Zika virus is possible, and of particular concern during pregnancy, CDC recommends that men who reside in or have traveled to an area of active Zika virus transmission who have a pregnant partner abstain from sexual activity or consistently and correctly use condoms for the duration of the pregnancy.
- Men who reside in or have traveled to Zika-affected areas and are concerned about partners who are not pregnant might consider abstaining from sexual activity or using condoms during sex.
- At this time, testing men to assess the risk for sexual transmission is not recommended.

This document is attached and can be accessed on-line at

http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/65/wr/mm6505e1er.htm?s_cid=mm6505e1er_w

This is a developing situation and guidelines may change. We are working very closely with State and federal officials and recommend that you **regularly check the CDC Zika Virus website** (<http://www.cdc.gov/zika/index.html>) **for the most recent updates**. We will also have updates on the BCHD website (<http://health.baltimorecity.gov/zika-virus>). Please contact the Baltimore City Health Department's Office of Acute Communicable Diseases at 410-396-4436 during normal business hours or at 410-396-3100 after hours with any questions.

Sincerely,

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Commissioner
Baltimore City Health Department

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