

2017

September is disease prevention, awareness, and management month.

Zika Virus

Discovered in the Zika forest, Uganda in 1947, Zika virus is a member of the flavivirus family. Zika virus is primarily transmitted to humans through the bite of infected mosquitoes.

Zika virus can be transmitted from an infected pregnant woman to her baby during pregnancy and can result in serious birth defects, including microcephaly. Less commonly, the virus can be spread through intercourse or blood transfusion.

Most people who become infected with Zika virus do not become sick. For the 20 percent of people who do develop symptoms, the illness is generally mild and includes fever, rash, joint pain, and conjunctivitis (red eyes). Illness lasts several days to a week. In non-pregnant people, the virus is generally eliminated from the body after a few weeks.

