

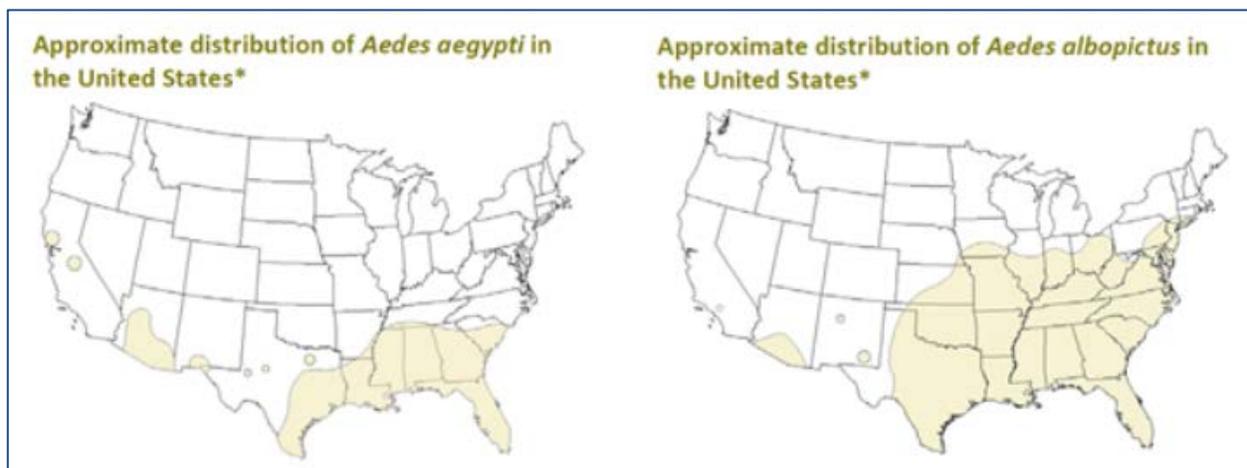
## ZIKA VIRUS AND MOSQUITOES: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### Where is Zika virus found?

Zika virus has not been found circulating in the U.S. Zika virus is currently circulating in many areas of Central and South America, Mexico, the Caribbean, and some Pacific Islands. As scientists learn more about this virus, new locations where the virus is found will likely be discovered. To see the latest information on where in the world Zika virus is found, visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) website at <http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/page/zika-travel-information>.

### Are the mosquitoes that transmit Zika virus found in Idaho?

No, the mosquitoes that transmit Zika virus have never been found in Idaho, or anywhere in the northern regions of the continental United States. The shaded areas in the following maps (from the CDC) show the known geographic distribution of the two mosquito species proven to transmit the Zika virus; *Aedes aegypti* and *Aedes albopictus*.



From: <http://www.cdc.gov/zika/vector/index.html> , web accessed on 2/10/2016

### Are any agencies looking for these mosquitoes in Idaho?

Yes and no. Mosquito abatement districts (MADs) are local organizations that trap and identify mosquitoes in Idaho. They focus their efforts on mosquitoes classified as pests and those that carry West Nile virus (WNV). Because the mosquitoes described on the map above are not known to be found anywhere in the northern regions of the United States, MADs do not focus their mosquito trapping efforts on these specific types of mosquitoes. However, in an ongoing effort to learn more about the geographic distribution of these mosquito species, some MADs in Idaho did look for them in 2015 and found none. Their findings are consistent with the information shown on the CDC maps. In 2016, some Idaho MADs will again be looking for these specific mosquito populations. Contact your local MAD to learn more about their surveillance activities.

### Are Idaho mosquito abatement districts testing mosquitoes for Zika virus?

No, there is no reason to do this as the mosquitoes that carry the virus have not been found in Idaho. Although it is unlikely due to our cold climate that the mosquitoes would ever be found in Idaho, should they turn up, the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare would work with local, state, and federal partners to evaluate any public health risks associated with these mosquitoes.

## Can the mosquitoes that spread West Nile virus also spread Zika virus?

No, there is no scientific evidence to suggest that the *Culex* mosquito, known for its ability to spread West Nile virus (WNV) in Idaho and elsewhere, could spread Zika virus. This is good news and has to do with the biology of the *Culex* mosquito, including their biting behavior. *Culex* mosquitoes prefer to bite birds which are the main carriers of WNV in nature. *Culex* mosquitoes only bite people if they can't find a bird or sometimes a small mammal or horse to feed on, and only rarely spread the virus directly from birds and small mammals to people (horses do not play a role in transmission to people). On the other hand, the mosquitoes that spread the Zika virus, *Aedes aegypti* and *Aedes albopictus*, like to bite people and can directly spread the virus by biting a sick person and then biting another; they do not need an intermediate animal host to spread the virus. These mosquitoes do not live in Idaho.

## Who does mosquito control (abatement) in Idaho and how can I contact them?

There is no state-level program that oversees mosquito control. Mosquito abatement districts (MADs) perform this activity in some, but not all areas of the state. Not all counties or cities have active MADs; much of Idaho land is located outside of any formal mosquito control program. MADs are local agencies funded through tax districts and vary in their size and function. You can see the abatement districts formed based on taxing districts in 2015 at [https://tax.idaho.gov/ptt/gis/2015TaxDistricts/Mosquito\\_Abatement/Mosquito\\_Abatement.pdf](https://tax.idaho.gov/ptt/gis/2015TaxDistricts/Mosquito_Abatement/Mosquito_Abatement.pdf). City, home owner association, and school-based abatement programs might also be active in your community. To learn more about local activities, contact your county commissioner's office or visit their website.

## What if I traveled to a part of the world that does have the mosquitoes that transmit Zika virus?

Mosquito bites from *Aedes aegypti* and *A. albopictus* mosquitoes have been associated with the transmission of Zika virus. It is important to note that other mosquito-borne viruses, such as Dengue virus and Chikungunya virus, are often found circulating in the same countries where Zika virus is currently found, spread by the same mosquitoes, and can lead to similar clinical illnesses.

If you recently traveled to a part of the world where Zika virus is found and you are pregnant (see below) or were bitten by mosquitoes and have questions about your health, visit the CDC Zika virus website at <http://www.cdc.gov/zika/index.html>.

If you wish to learn more about Dengue and Chikungunya, visit the Dengue virus website at <http://www.cdc.gov/dengue/>, and the Chikungunya virus website at <http://www.cdc.gov/chikungunya/>.

## What if I was pregnant when I traveled to an area where Zika virus is found?

Infection with the Zika virus during pregnancy could result in some serious medical conditions in your unborn child including microcephaly. To learn more, visit the CDC website at <http://www.cdc.gov/zika/pregnancy/index.html> and talk to your health care provider.

## **What are the signs and symptoms of Zika virus infection?**

Approximately 80% of infections are asymptomatic, and do not lead to any signs or symptoms at all. For the remaining 20%, common symptoms include fever, rash, joint pain, or conjunctivitis (red eyes) and last for about 1 week. To learn more about the signs and symptoms associated with a Zika virus infection, visit the CDC website at <http://www.cdc.gov/zika/symptoms/index.html>  
If you believe you are ill, contact your healthcare provider.

## **What if I still have questions?**

You can contact your local public health district to learn more. You can find your closest public health district at <http://www.healthandwelfare.idaho.gov/Health/HealthDistricts/tabid/97/Default.aspx>