# ZIKA AND SEXUAL TRANSMISSION

## WHAT WE KNOW AND WHAT WE DON'T KNOW.

## What we know

- Zika virus can be spread during sex by a man infected with Zika to his partners. This includes vaginal, anal, and oral (mouth-to-penis) sex.
- In known cases of sexual transmission, the men had Zika symptoms. From these cases, we know the virus can be spread when the man has symptoms, before symptoms start, and after symptoms end.
- The virus can stay in semen longer than in blood.

## What we don't know

- How long Zika virus can stay in the semen of infected men or spread through sex.
- If men infected with Zika who never develop symptoms can have Zika virus in their semen or spread Zika through sex.
- If a woman can spread Zika virus to her sex partners.

## Pregnant?

**What you should know about Zika and sex.**

Zika virus can be spread during by a man to his partners. Because Zika can cause certain birth defects, take steps to prevent infection during your pregnancy.

### If you have a male partner who lives in or has traveled to an area with Zika, protect your pregnancy.

If you have vaginal, anal, or oral sex (mouth-to-penis), use a condom every time during your pregnancy.

**OR**

Don't have sex with your male partner during your pregnancy.

### If you think your male partner may have or have had Zika, tell your doctor or healthcare provider about

- His travel history
- How long he stayed in an area with Zika
- If he took steps to prevent mosquito bites
- If you had sex without a condom

## Men: Do you have a pregnant partner?

Zika virus can be spread by a man infected with Zika to his partners. Because Zika can cause certain birth defects, take steps to prevent your partner from getting Zika during her pregnancy.

### If you live in or travel to an area with Zika, protect your partner's pregnancy.

If you have vaginal, anal, or oral sex (mouth-to-penis), use a condom every time you have sex during the pregnancy.

**OR**

Don't have sex with your pregnant partner during the pregnancy.

### If you think you may have or had Zika, tell your doctor or healthcare provider about

- Your travel history
- How long you stayed in an area with Zika
- If you took steps to prevent mosquito bites
- If you had sex without a condom

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

**For more information:**
www.cdc.gov/zika

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