

Zika Virus

Zika virus disease is transmitted primarily through the bite of infected *Aedes* mosquitoes, which bite during the day. The virus can also be transmitted from mother to fetus during pregnancy, through sexual contact, transfusion of blood and blood products and organ transplantation. Zika virus infection during pregnancy can cause congenital malformations and pregnancy complications (<http://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/zika-virus>).

In 2018 there were no reported confirmed Zika cases in BC. All of the previously confirmed Zika cases in BC reported travel to countries where mosquito-borne Zika virus transmission is known to occur. To date there have been no reported cases of sexually transmitted Zika virus infections among British Columbians.

Pregnant women and those planning a pregnancy should avoid travel to Zika-affected countries because of increased risk of congenital malformations in infants born to women infected with Zika virus during pregnancy. Continued surveillance among British Columbians will inform future revisions to our risk assessment.

