

First case of Zika infection after sex between gay men: US

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Transmission electron micrograph (TEM) of Zika virus. Credit: Cynthia Goldsmith/Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

US health authorities on Thursday described the first known case of Zika being transmitted during sex between gay men, suggesting yet another route for infection with the mosquito-borne virus.

The case involved a man who traveled to Venezuela and infected his male partner—who had not traveled—upon his return to Texas in January.

The couple had been monogamous for more than 10 years, the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said.

Both men experienced a fever, an itchy rash on their upper bodies and the eye infection conjunctivitis, but no lasting complications.

At least five other cases of [sexual transmission](#) of Zika have been described in scientific literature, but those have involved males infecting females.

"Sexual transmission through both vaginal and anal sex is an emerging mode of Zika virus infection that might contribute to more illness than was anticipated when the outbreak was first recognized," said the CDC in its *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*.

Earlier this week, the CDC said there is no longer any doubt that Zika can cause birth defects, making it the first-known mosquito-borne virus with the ability to cause such harm to a developing fetus.

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