

Another Miami neighborhood now zika-free

December 3 2016



(HealthDay)—The Little River section of Miami is no longer an area where local Zika infection is active, Florida health officials reported Friday.

While Florida Gov. Rick Scott said the development was great news for the state, he also asked residents to continue doing what they can to stop the spread of the mosquito-borne virus, which has been linked to devastating birth defects in babies.

"It is crucial that everyone remains vigilant and continues to do their part to wear bug spray and dump standing water so we can keep these areas clear, especially for pregnant women and their developing babies," Scott said in a statement.

The Florida health department "now believes active transmission of Zika is only occurring in the southern part of Miami Beach, and I hope that local officials will consider every available resource to ensure aggressive mosquito control measures are being taken to lift this final Zika zone," Scott added.

Dr. Tom Frieden, director of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, still urged vigilance on Friday.

"We still advise pregnant women not to travel to the [remaining] red zone in South Miami Beach," he said in an agency news release.

"Furthermore, people living in or visiting Miami-Dade County, including the Little River area, particularly [pregnant women](#), are still encouraged to continue to take steps to prevent mosquito bites."

Florida is the only state with confirmed cases of local transmission of Zika. The state has reported an estimated 240 cases.

As of Nov. 23, an estimated 182 of more than 4,400 reported cases of Zika infection in the United States were spread by mosquitoes, according to the CDC. Most of the infections reported in the United States occurred in areas of Latin America and the Caribbean, where Zika cases have been at epidemic proportions.

As Florida reported progress against Zika this week, Texas confirmed its first possible case of locally transmitted infection on Monday.

The Texas case involves a woman who lives in Brownsville, near Mexico, and she had no travel-related risk factors for Zika infection, the CDC said. The virus is typically spread through the bite of the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito, although it can also be transmitted through sexual contact.

Most adults who are infected with Zika experience mild symptoms. But, the babies of women who are infected while pregnant can experience devastating [birth defects](#), the most common of which has been microcephaly, where the brain is underdeveloped and the head is abnormally small.

More information: The World Health Organization has more on [Zika](#).

This Q & A will tell you [what you need to know about Zika](#).

To see the CDC list of sites where Zika virus is active and may pose a threat to pregnant women, click [here](#).

Copyright © 2016 [HealthDay](#). All rights reserved.

Citation: Another Miami neighborhood now zika-free (2016, December 3) retrieved 18 April 2024 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2016-12-miami-neighborhood-zika-free.html>

<p>This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.</p>
--