Some time between 2007 and 2015, the Southeast Asian strain of the Zika virus developed the capabilities to be transmitted both \textit{congenitally and sexually in humans}.

The most common misconceptions about \textit{Aedes} mosquito behavior are: (1) they are \textit{inactive at this time}, and (2) they \textit{only bite at dawn and dusk}.

Most people infected with Zika virus will be asymptomatic.

If symptomatic, the illness is usually mild and lasts for a few days to a week.

Currently there is no vaccine to prevent or medication to treat Zika virus infections.
ZIKA VIRUS: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

• Zika virus can cause severe neurological disease including microcephaly with brain defects in babies and Guillain Barre syndrome in older people.

• Research in the areas of mosquito control, vaccine development, diagnosis, and therapy is urgently needed.

• Pregnant women or those who are planning pregnancy should avoid travel to areas with active local Zika transmission.

• Women in areas with the risk of transmission should take precautions to minimize mosquito exposures including approved repellents.

• Pregnant women should avoid unprotected intercourse with partners who have recently traveled in regions with active local Zika transmission.
ZIKA VIRUS: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

• Check yards and businesses weekly for standing water in containers such as plant pots, bird baths, children's toys, fountains, pet bowls, garbage cans, clogged gutters -- whatever will hold 1/4 inch of water or more where mosquitoes lay eggs.

• Use Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)-registered insect repellents with one of the following active ingredients: DEET, picaridin, IR3535, oil of lemon eucalyptus, or para-menthane-diol. Choosing an EPA-registered repellent ensures the EPA has evaluated the product for effectiveness.

• Do not use insect repellent on babies younger than 2 months old.

• Do not use products containing oil of lemon eucalyptus or para-menthane-diol on children younger than 3 years old.

• If you are also using sunscreen, apply sunscreen before applying insect repellent.
ZIKA VIRUS: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

For more information: