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## Transmission

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### Through mosquito bites

Zika virus is transmitted to people primarily through the bite of an infected *Aedes* species mosquito (*A. aegypti* and *A. albopictus*). These are the same mosquitoes that spread [dengue](http://www.cdc.gov/dengue/) and [chikungunya](#) viruses.

- These mosquitoes typically lay eggs in and near standing water in things like buckets, bowls, animal dishes, flower pots and vases. They prefer to bite people, and live indoors and outdoors near people.
  - Mosquitoes that spread chikungunya, dengue, and Zika are aggressive daytime biters. They can also bite at night.
- Mosquitoes become infected when they feed on a person already infected with the virus. Infected mosquitoes can then spread the virus to other people through bites.

### Rarely, from mother to child

- A mother already infected with Zika virus near the time of delivery can pass on the virus to her newborn around the time of birth, but this is rare.
- It is possible that Zika virus could be passed from a mother to her baby during pregnancy. We are studying how some mothers can pass the virus to their babies.
- To date, there are no reports of infants getting Zika virus through breastfeeding. Because of the benefits of breastfeeding, mothers are encouraged to breastfeed even in areas where Zika virus is found.

### Through infected blood or sexual contact

- Spread of the virus through blood transfusion and sexual contact have been reported.

#### Additional Resources

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- Mosquito Life-Cycle ([http://www.cdc.gov/dengue/entomologyEcology/m\\_lifecycle.html](http://www.cdc.gov/dengue/entomologyEcology/m_lifecycle.html))
- Mosquitoes' Main Aquatic Habitats ([http://www.cdc.gov/Dengue/entomologyEcology/m\\_habitats.html](http://www.cdc.gov/Dengue/entomologyEcology/m_habitats.html))
- Help Control Mosquitoes that Spread Dengue, Chikungunya, and Zika Viruses [PDF - 2 pages] ([http://www.cdc.gov/dengue/resources/factSheets/Control\\_Mosquitoes\\_CHIKV\\_DENV\\_ZIKA.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/dengue/resources/factSheets/Control_Mosquitoes_CHIKV_DENV_ZIKA.pdf)) (English)
- Help Control Mosquitoes that Spread Dengue, Chikungunya, and Zika Viruses [PDF - 2 pages] ([http://www.cdc.gov/dengue/resources/factSheets/Control\\_Mosquitoes\\_CHIKV\\_DENV\\_ZIKA\\_Spanish.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/dengue/resources/factSheets/Control_Mosquitoes_CHIKV_DENV_ZIKA_Spanish.pdf)) (Spanish)
- Prevent Mosquito Production in your Septic Tank [PDF - 1 page] (<http://www.cdc.gov/dengue/resources/factSheets/SepticTankFactSheetEnglishNCEZID.pdf>)

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National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases (NCEZID) (<http://www.cdc.gov/ncezid>)

Division of Vector-Borne Diseases (DVBD) (<http://www.cdc.gov/ncezid/dvbd/index.html>)