



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING

RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

BRIAN J. WHISTON
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

MEMORANDUM

DATE: August 11, 2016

TO: Local and Intermediate School District Superintendents
Public School Academy Directors

FROM: Kyle L. Guerrant, Deputy Superintendent *KG*

SUBJECT: Viruses Spread by Mosquitoes

The U.S. Department of Education (USED) has provided information and resources for state and local leaders, schools, school-based health staff, and educators on steps that can be taken to guard against viruses spread by mosquitoes such as dengue, chikungunya, and Zika virus disease (Zika). Complete information about Zika and how to prevent it is given at <http://www.cdc.gov/zika> and at <http://www.cdc.gov/zika/comm-resources/toolkits.html>. Prevention of mosquito bites through multiple mosquito mitigation efforts is of paramount importance for avoiding Zika virus infections.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has developed interim guidance, <http://www.cdc.gov/zika/schools.html>, for kindergarten through grade 12 (K–12) district and school administrators on public health actions pertaining to Zika virus infection. Zika virus is transmitted to people primarily through the bite of an infected mosquito. Zika can also be transmitted through sex with an infected person or passed from a pregnant woman to her fetus. The CDC guidance is intended to address concerns about the risk of Zika virus infection in K–12 schools in the United States, provide school districts with information for planning school-related activities, and recommend actions that can be taken, in consultation with local public health authorities and government officials, to reduce the potential risk of Zika virus transmission on school premises and among members of the school community.

According to the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS), the mosquitoes that transmit Zika virus are not in Michigan. Several counties in the state are conducting mosquito surveillance for Aedes vectors of Zika; as of July 22, 2016, none have been detected. Michigan will continue to identify cases of Zika virus in residents who travel to areas where Zika virus is being transmitted locally.

As with all health-related issues, districts and schools must maintain the privacy and identity of individual students and teachers consistent with all applicable privacy laws.

Questions regarding this Memorandum may be directed to Aimee Alaniz in the Coordinated School Health and Safety Programs unit at alaniza1@michigan.gov.

cc: Michigan Education Alliance

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608 WEST ALLEGAN STREET • P.O. BOX 30008 • LANSING, MICHIGAN 48909
www.michigan.gov/mde • 517-373-3324