

# Butte County health officials say no immediate local risk for Zika virus

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Oroville >> While there is mounting concern about the global spread of the mosquito-borne Zika virus, including a positive test in Yolo County, Butte County health officials said there is no immediate risk for local transmission.

The Butte County Public Health Department said in a press release Thursday that it is working with the Butte County Mosquito and Vector Control District to monitor for signs of the virus or the types of mosquitoes known for transmitting the disease.

There is no evidence of those non-native mosquitoes, known as *Aedes aegypti* or *Aedes albopictus*, in the north valley, although the California Department of Public Health shows *Aedes aegypti* has been detected in the Bay Area. *Aedes aegypti* are also known for transmitting dengue fever and chikungunya.

While the mosquitos may not be present, officials advised residents to take steps to avoid mosquito bites and to take additional precautions if traveling to affected regions.

The federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention states that there are no locally acquired vector-borne case in the United States, according to [cdc.gov/zika](http://cdc.gov/zika), although there are nine cases in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. There are 52 reported travel-associated cases in the United States, as of Wednesday.

One of the travel-associated cases involved a Yolo County resident, who recently traveled out of the country, according to the [Daily Democrat](#). Yolo County officials declined to identify the individual or provide specifics, such as gender, but said the person had contracted a mild case of Zika and was doing fine.

Yolo County emergency medical services administrator Kristin Weivoda emphasized at a news conference that the patient acquired the disease while traveling abroad, the [Daily Democrat](#) reported.

“We don’t have any concerns about (transmission) happening in Yolo or Sacramento,” Weivoda said. “In Yolo, we don’t have the kind of mosquito that spreads that virus.”

The Yolo case came to light when the patient showed flu-like symptoms and went to the doctor.

Butte County officials said people who have traveled to affected areas and have symptoms related to Zika to contact their medical provider or obstetrician, if pregnant. People don't need to seek testing or medical care if they haven't traveled to an affected region, aren't pregnant and don't show symptoms.

Symptoms include fever, rash, joint pain or red eyes, in addition to muscle pain and headache, according to the CDC.

There is no vaccine or treatment for the disease.

Only about 20 percent of people infected with Zika virus will become ill. People usually don't become ill enough to go to the hospital, but in some cases it could lead to paralysis or death.

While the disease is primarily transmitted to humans by mosquitoes, it may also be passed from a pregnant mother to her unborn child, according to the CDC. There have also been reports of the disease spreading through blood transfusion or sexual contact.

Some mothers infected with the Zika virus have borne children with birth defects including microcephaly, or abnormal smallness of the head. Doctors are still investigating the possible link between Zika virus and microcephaly.

Prior to last year, Zika virus outbreaks occurred in parts of Africa, southeast Asia and the Pacific Islands, the CDC stated. In 2015, outbreaks began happening in the Western Hemisphere, leading the CDC to issue a travel notice for travelers returning from Central and South America, the Caribbean and Mexico.

People traveling to those regions are advised to take steps to avoid being bitten by mosquitoes, including wearing long-sleeved shirts and pants, and insect repellents with DEET, picaridin, IR3535 or an oil of lemon and eucalyptus. Other measures include draining small containers of water sources and using air conditioning or window and door screens to keep mosquitoes outside.

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