

Security Message for U.S. Citizens: Zika Virus

August 31, 2016

The U.S. Embassy in Singapore informs U.S. citizens that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has issued a travel notice [regarding the Zika virus](#). The CDC has concluded that the Zika virus is a cause of [microcephaly](#) and other severe fetal brain defects in some fetuses and babies born to infected mothers. This conclusion was based on increasing evidence from a number of recently published studies and a careful evaluation using established scientific criteria. Zika may also be linked to [Guillain-Barré syndrome](#), which can affect individuals of any age or sex. Zika virus is typically a mosquito-borne illness, but there have been confirmed cases of transmission through sexual contact and blood transfusion. CDC reports that travel to elevations higher than 2,000 m (6,500 ft) above sea level is considered to have minimal likelihood for mosquito-borne Zika virus transmission, even within countries reporting active transmission. CDC recommends that women who are pregnant should not travel to areas that are at elevations less than 2,000 m above sea level in countries with ongoing Zika virus transmission. For general information about Zika, please visit the [CDC website](#).

For further information:

- See the [State Department's travel website](#) for the [Worldwide Caution](#), Travel Warnings, Travel Alerts, and [Singapore Country Specific Information](#).
- Enroll in the [Smart Traveler Enrollment Program \(STEP\)](#) to receive security messages and make it easier to locate you in an emergency.
- Contact the U.S. Embassy in Singapore, located at 27 Napier Road, at +65-6476-9100, 8:30 a.m. to 5:15 p.m. Monday through Friday. After-hours emergency number for U.S. citizens is also +65-6476-9100.
- Call 1-888-407-4747 toll-free in the United States and Canada or 1-202-501-4444 from other countries from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time, Monday through Friday (except U.S. federal holidays).
- Follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).