

January 29, 2016

Subject: Zika Virus Update and Resources

Dear Midwives,

Today, Dr. Eric Hoskins, Minister of Health and Long Term Care, and Dr. David Williams, Acting Chief Medical Officer of Health, issued a statement on Zika virus reinforcing the low risk of Zika virus in Ontario. They recommended that pregnant women and those considering becoming pregnant discuss their travel plans with their health care provider to assess their risk and consider postponing travel to [Zika-endemic areas](#). Midwives may consider posting the previously-circulated [Public Health Agency of Canada Travel Advisory](#) in your clinics.

Public Health Ontario has also issued a [factsheet on Zika virus](#), which references the previously circulated documents from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada posted a list of [resources on Zika virus and pregnant women](#). Including a [NEW Interim Guidance for Obstetric Patients During a Zika Virus Outbreak](#) document from the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) and the Society for Maternal Fetal Medicine (US).

Zika virus infection is primarily a mosquito-borne disease, with the potential for in-utero transmission. In rare cases, transmission can occur through blood transfusion and sexual contact. Routine infection control practices (i.e., universal precautions for bloodborne pathogens) should be used when providing care to clients with suspected or confirmed Zika virus, as with all clients.

For further support around Zika or other outbreaks, contact Julie Toole ([Julie.toole@aom.on.ca](mailto:Julie.toole@aom.on.ca) or extension 2266 at the AOM office).

Yours truly,

**Cara Wilkie**

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