

Zika virus: What you need to know for family and reproductive health

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PRESENTATION FORMAT: Oral Presentation

TOPIC/TARGET AUDIENCE: public health practitioners, nurses, health communicators, program staff

ABSTRACT:

Background: Zika virus is a rapidly-emerging mosquito-borne disease in the Western hemisphere, and its epidemiology includes sexual transmission. It is the first known vector-borne disease resulting in birth defects. Centralized health agencies have undertaken large-scale efforts to determine epidemiology and develop prevention and control measures. Local public health agencies and practitioners must remain informed about zika and able to discuss current recommendations.

Method and contents: Up-to-date information on epidemiology and outcomes of zika infection in the United States, level of risk in Oregon, Oregon's zika-associated pregnancy surveillance process, and recommendations for public health for their clients and the public will be presented, with an emphasis on common questions and concerns regarding family and reproductive health issues.

Implications: Many areas of knowledge are needed by public health practitioners providing zika information for Oregonians. These include having access to the most recent understanding of virus transmission and outcomes, and translating recommendations and prevention messages into culturally competent forms that take into account cultural norms, language barriers, family travel, pregnancy intentions for women and their partners, and access to and acceptance of highly-effective contraceptive methods. Understanding these factors is necessary to effectively promote public health prevention strategies for zika virus in pregnancy.

OBJECTIVE(S):

- Explain the current knowledge of zika virus transmission in the U.S. and Oregon.
- Describe the current knowledge regarding outcomes of zika virus-affected pregnancies.
- Identify barriers to communication and to use of prevention measures.

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