



Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) Prevention Guidelines for Schools and Child Care Facilities

Currently, there is no vaccine or treatment for Zika virus. The best protection against infection is to prevent mosquito breeding and protect yourself from mosquito bites. The Louisiana Department of Health offers the following guidelines to help schools and child care facilities to decrease students and staffs' potential exposure to mosquitos.

1. Review schools or organization operational policies related to environmental control of insects and update them to include prevention of mosquito breeding if it is not part of the current policy.
 - For more information about environmental controls from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), please read the CDC's Fact Sheet on Controlling Mosquitoes:
www.cdc.gov/dengue/resources/factsheets/mosquito-control.pdf
 - The factsheet is about dengue, but the same methods apply for Zika as it is transmitted in the same ways by the same species of mosquito. Also, find relevant information at the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) Zika website: <http://www.ldh.louisiana.gov/index.cfm/page/2478>
 - Consider developing procedures that focus on preventing mosquito breeding that include:
 - Removal on a weekly basis any standing water around the school or child care operation that may be located in buckets, trash containers, plant saucers, playground equipment, and other areas.
 - Check gutters to keep them clear of debris and standing water.
 - Cover trash containers.
 - Check and repair window screens in classrooms and other buildings. The use of air conditioning will allow windows to stay closed so mosquitoes cannot enter the buildings.
 - For Vector Control Professionals, please read the CDC's document on the control of *Aedes aegypti* and *Aedes albopictus* in the United States at www.cdc.gov/chikungunya/resources/vector-control.html
2. Consider reviewing, developing, or updating policies and procedures as needed to protect children from exposure to mosquito bites, while at school or child care facility. Check the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) website for a list of registered insect repellents that are safe at www.epa.gov/insect-repellents/find-insect-repellent-right-you
 - Review and update school or organization operational polices, if applicable, related to over-the-counter medication administration (use and application of insect repellent) by schools or organization staff, to address the use of insect

repellent when children are outdoors. This may include updating the parental consent form to include the administration of insect repellent.

- With parental consent, if required, have staff apply insect repellent before outdoor activities. For more information about proper application, read the product instructions or go to the U. S. Food and Drug Administration website for instructions for applying insect replant on children at www.fda.gov/drugs/emergencypreparedness/ucm085277.htm
 - Encourage parents to apply EPA-registered repellents before children arrive at school or child care facility.
 - Encourage parents and caregivers to provide clothing that covers skin to which insect repellent will not be applied. In warm weather, children should wear light colored, lightweight, loose-fitting pants, and long sleeved shirts, as well as socks to cover the ankles.
3. Ensure that students and staff who are or may become pregnant have access to information about Zika and pregnancy. Information can be found at <http://www.cdc.gov/zika/pregnancy/index.html>
 4. Determine appropriate mechanisms for educating and communicating with parents and children about the importance of avoiding mosquito bites whenever possible.
 - Provide educational materials to parents, caregivers, and staff on the prevention of mosquito bites. For educational materials, see the <http://www.cdc.gov/zika/parents/index.html>
 5. Continue to check the CDC website to get updates and additional information at <http://www.cdc.gov/zika/index.html>