



Zika and West Nile Virus: Tips for Schools in L.A. County

Zika is one of the most discussed mosquito-borne disease in recent history. It's likely school administrators may have concerns or have received questions about this virus from staff, parents and/or students.

It's important that school administrators understand that the risk is real. *Aedes* mosquitoes that can transmit the Zika virus are present in many communities in L.A. County. These *Aedes* mosquitoes are also excellent at vectoring (transmitting) yellow fever, dengue fever and chikungunya.

By understanding the threat and knowing what to do around school campuses, school administrators can take steps now to protect staff and students, while lowering the risk of a local disease outbreak.

Key Facts about Zika and the Invasive *Aedes* Mosquitoes

- The Zika virus is spread through the bite of a type of an infected *Aedes* mosquito. Currently, there is no confirmation the mosquitoes are transmitting Zika virus to people.
- *Aedes* mosquitoes are invasive to the United States. There are infestations of *Aedes* in many cities and communities in L.A. County.
- Travelers can get infected by visiting areas where *Aedes* mosquitoes are spreading the Zika virus. Later, if the infected traveler stays in L.A. County and is bitten by an *Aedes* mosquito, a local outbreak can occur.

There's a Closer Threat: West Nile Virus

- Our native (*Culex*) mosquitoes transmit West Nile virus to people through bites.
- The virus is active in L.A. County every year.
- Children, the elderly and people with weakened immune systems are most susceptible.

What Schools Can Do: Take Action Now!

Whether it's the invasive *Aedes* or native *Culex* mosquitoes, prevention is key!

- Monitor campuses for any standing water. Mosquitoes can use containers as small as a bottle cap filled with water to lay their eggs.
- Clear drains, BMPs and rain gutters of any debris that can trap water into stagnant puddles.
- Look for standing water in classrooms and offices. Remove plant cuttings and office plants rooting in water. *Aedes* mosquitoes can thrive indoors!
- Nurses: Monitor reports about mosquito bites. *Aedes* mosquitoes bite aggressively during the day. Report mosquito problems to maintenance and vector control.



Other info:

www.cdc.gov/zika/schools

www.cdph.gov

www.publichealth.lacounty.gov

Vector Control Offers FREE Programs to Schools

1. For Teachers/Students: Our education program coordinators will make your students bug out with in-class programs and assemblies! The program can be tailored to students in various grades.
2. For Staff/Faculty: Vector control can conduct a presentation to educators and school staff to provide more insight about the current mosquito-related issues that impact your school.
3. For Parents, PTA and other parent-groups: Workshops are available at the school site to engage with parents.

To take advantage of these free programs, contact us at commaffairs@glacvcd.org. For mosquito problems, contact vector control for inspections and help at no extra charge.

www.ReportMosquitoes.org or 562-944-9656.