

Zika Virus

Zika virus disease is transmitted primarily through the bite of infected *Aedes* mosquitoes. The virus can also be transmitted from mother to fetus during pregnancy, through sexual contact, transfusion of blood and blood products and organ transplantation. Zika virus outbreak in the Americas has been linked to congenital anomalies and pregnancy complications (<http://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/zika-virus>).

Guidelines for Zika virus testing for British Columbians were established in early 2016. In 2017, a total of nine (9) confirmed Zika cases were identified, mostly in the first and last quarter of the year. Of these cases, five were female (55%) and four were male (45%). Two of the five female cases were pregnant at the time of infection. All cases reported travel to countries where mosquito-borne Zika virus transmis-

sion is known to occur. Common travel destinations included Panama, the Philippines, Mexico and Costa Rica. To date there have been no reported cases of sexually transmitted Zika virus infections among British Columbians.

Although in 2017 the number of Zika cases identified was only one-sixth of that seen in 2016, BC travellers are still at risk for contracting Zika virus when travelling to Zika-affected countries or areas. Continued surveillance among British Columbians will inform future revisions to our risk assessment.



30.1 Zika Virus Reports Epi-Curve by Week, 2017

