

## Information for travellers to areas with local transmission of Zika virus

Statement of the Health Security Committee (HSC)<sup>[1]</sup> based on scientific input by the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC)

**Update: 16 Dec 2015**

- Travellers visiting countries where Zika virus is locally transmitted should be made aware of the ongoing outbreak of Zika virus infection. The list of affected areas during the past nine months is available at [countries reporting local transmission of confirmed Zika virus infections webpage](#).
- Travellers visiting these countries should use personal preventive measures based on protection against mosquito bites indoors and outdoors, especially from sunrise to sunset when mosquitoes are biting the most:
  - Use mosquito repellent in accordance with the instructions indicated on the product label. DEET-based repellent is not recommended for children under three months of age but pregnant women can use it.
  - Wear long-sleeved shirts and long trousers, especially during the hours when the type of mosquito that carries the Zika virus (*Aedes*) is most active.
  - Sleep or rest in screened or air-conditioned rooms, otherwise use mosquito nets, even during the day.
- Travellers that are pregnant, have immune disorders or severe chronic illnesses, or are accompanied by young children should consult their doctor or seek advice from a travel clinic before travelling in order to receive recommendations on the use of repellents and other preventive measures.
- Travellers showing symptoms compatible with Zika virus disease within three weeks of return from an affected area are advised to contact their healthcare provider and mention their recent travel.
- Pregnant women that have travelled in areas with Zika virus transmission should mention their travel during antenatal visits in order to be assessed and monitored appropriately.

1) The statement is based on Article 11 "Coordination of response" of Decision 1082/2013/EU on serious cross border health threats and can be adapted to the needs and circumstances of Member States."