

United Nations Medical Services Division
Zika Virus: Health Risk Mitigation Plan for UN Personnel and Dependents

Updated as of 18 February 2016

- For a list of countries/areas where local transmission of Zika virus is known to occur, please refer to <https://hr.un.org/page/zika-virus>
- If using a printed copy of this document, you must verify that it is the latest approved copy by checking <https://hr.un.org/page/zika-virus>

Risk Category	UN Recommendations
1A Pregnant UN personnel located outside of affected areas and who plan to travel into affected areas	Pregnant UN personnel (in any trimester) who plan to travel into areas where local transmission of Zika virus is known to occur should be <u>denied</u> medical/travel clearance.
1B Pregnant UN personnel who reside within affected areas	<p>Pregnant UN personnel who reside within affected areas should be offered support to comply with local health authorities' advice and WHO guidelines in order to minimize risk exposure. <i>(These may include improving office systems to reduce risks of mosquito bites, and/or working indoors within the duty station.)</i></p> <p>Subject to operational feasibility, flexibility should be provided to pregnant UN personnel to amend their work, or their place of work, to decrease the risk of contracting Zika, taking into account local mosquito control efforts and programs.</p> <p>Subject to operational feasibility, flexibility should be provided to pregnant UN personnel to allow or provide relocation to a place that is Zika-free.</p>
2A UN personnel with pregnant spouse located outside of affected areas and who plans to bring spouse to affected areas	UN personnel should be advised against travelling a pregnant spouse or dependent from a Zika-free area to duty stations in areas where local transmission of Zika virus is known to occur.
2B UN personnel with pregnant spouse who resides within affected areas	UN personnel are recommended to relocate a pregnant spouse (and dependents, if spouse is primary care giver) to a Zika-free area if feasible.

3 Non-pregnant female UN personnel of childbearing age who are located outside affected areas, and who plan to travel into affected areas	Female UN personnel of childbearing age should obtain individual advice from their medical practitioner on risk management regarding their plans to travel into areas where local transmission of Zika virus is known to occur.
4 All UN personnel and dependents	<p>UN personnel and dependents who reside in, or who plan to travel into areas where local transmission of Zika virus is known to occur, should be provided with up-to-date information and advised to exercise the highest level of mosquito bite avoidance and vector control. This includes reducing contact between mosquitoes and people by using insect repellent, clothing, physical barriers, nets, and removal of mosquito breeding sites.</p> <p>Due to possible sexual transmission of the virus, UN personnel returning from areas where local transmission of Zika virus is known to occur should adopt safer sexual practices (including use of condoms during vaginal, anal, or oral sex) or consider abstinence for at least four weeks after return.</p> <p>UN personnel who reside in areas where local transmission of Zika virus is known to occur are recommended to adopt safer sexual practices or abstain from sexual activity.</p> <p>UN personnel who reside in, or return from areas where local transmission of Zika virus is known to occur, <u>and</u> who are sexual partners of pregnant women, should use safer sexual practices or abstain from sexual activity, for the entire duration of pregnancy.</p> <p>Any UN personnel with lab-confirmed Zika virus infection and their sexual partners (particularly pregnant women) should consult their primary care provider and/or obstetrician-gynaecologist for advice. Such individuals should exercise the highest level of mosquito bite avoidance for the first week of illness.</p> <p>These recommendations will be updated as further information becomes available.</p>
