

The Virgin Islands Consortium

No New Cases Of Zika In Territory For Third Straight Week

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ST. CROIX — For the third straight week, there were no additional cases of the Zika virus in the territory, according to the Department of Health's weekly Zika report, leaving the tally at 21 cases territory-wide, with 15 cases in St. Croix, 5 in St. Thomas and 1 in St. John.

"Although the number of confirmed Zika cases hasn't changed since last week, we need to remain diligent to protect ourselves and the health of future generations from this virus," said D.O.H. Commissioner Nominee Michelle Davis in response to last week's report. "Use insect repellent, wear protective clothes, and mosquito-proof your home."

Free Zika testing locations can be found [here](#) or at the bottom of this article. D.O.H. says it will inspect the homes of pregnant women for mosquitoes and mosquito larvae, and provide treatment as needed in the homes of those pregnant women who receive testing.

Pregnant women are also eligible to receive a free [Zika prevention kit](#) from 14 healthcare clinics across the Virgin Islands. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recently delivered 750 kits to St. Croix, St. John, and St. Thomas. Each kit includes educational materials in English and Spanish, EPA-registered insect repellent, permethrin spray repellent for treating clothing, condoms to avoid sexual transmission of Zika, treatment tabs for preventing mosquitoes from breeding in standing water, and a bed net, according to the release.

Zika is spread to people primarily through the bite of an infected *Aedes* species mosquito. The most common symptoms of Zika are fever, rash, joint pain, and conjunctivitis (red eyes). The illness is usually mild with symptoms lasting for several days to a week after being bitten by an infected mosquito. People usually don't get sick enough to go to the hospital, and they very rarely die of Zika. For this reason, many people might not realize they have been infected.

The following steps can be taken to prevent Zika: wear long-sleeved shirts and long pants, stay in places with air conditioning and window and door screens to keep mosquitoes outside, use Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)-registered insect repellents with one of the following active ingredients: DEET, picaridin, IR3535, oil of lemon eucalyptus, or para-menthane-diol.