

According to a recent article in the Los Angeles Daily News, the Greater LA County Vector Control District reported that, for the first time last month, the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito, capable of carrying and spreading Zika, was discovered in the San Fernando Valley. Although there is no confirmation that these mosquitoes are transmitting the disease to people in Los Angeles, it has been reported in travelers returning back home to California from infested regions. As of last Friday, 241 cases of the Zika virus have been reported in California, a 28% increase from the week before, including 32 pregnant women and two infants in August who were born with Zika-related microcephaly.

The virus is spread primarily through the bite of the *Aedes* species mosquito. A mosquito becomes infected when it bites a person already infected with Zika. These mosquitoes are aggressive daytime biters and can also bite at night. The Center for Disease Control (CDC) says there is no vaccine to prevent or medicine to treat Zika.

The World Health Organization has declared an international health emergency over the spread of the Zika virus, now known to cause devastating birth defects in children born to women infected with the virus. For instance, Zika has been blamed for a doubling of the rate of birth defects in Brazil. These birth defects involve the nervous system, including microcephaly – an unusually small head, often accompanied by brain damage, Guillain-Barre syndrome – a rare, paralyzing side-effect of some infections, and other inflammatory conditions such as encephalitis.

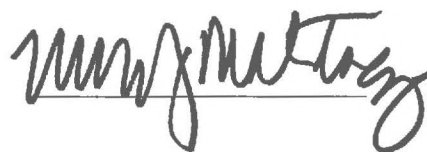
Other areas of the U.S., including San Diego County, areas in Florida and in South Carolina, have reported Zika cases involving people who traveled to countries with active Zika infestations and became infected. In San Diego and in Florida, insecticide fog has been used through aerial spraying to target mosquitoes capable of carrying the Zika virus. However, there is an unfortunate side effect of this type of mitigation method in that it has reportedly killed 2.5 million honey bees at an apiary east of Charleston, South Carolina. The Council has prioritized protection of honey bees within the City.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Council: (1) instruct applicable City Departments, such as the Emergency Management Department, to report to Council relative to current and future public health threats posed by any possible transmission of Zika within the City, and report on the best ways to prevent Zika, particularly for pregnant women, and (2) request the Los Angeles County Department of Health and other applicable health agencies and organizations and experts to report to Council on the issues above, as well as on any planned vector control methods and on ways to mitigate the spread of these mosquitos, and how any negative impacts such mitigation methods may have upon backyard beehives.

PRESENTED BY:

  
PAUL KORETZ  
Councilmember, 5<sup>th</sup> District

SECONDED BY:





ORIGINAL