

What You Need to Know About Zika

You no doubt have probably heard about the Zika virus. While it is primarily mosquito-borne, there is also the possibility of sexual transmission from a man to his sex partners. No local mosquito-borne Zika virus cases have been reported in the US, but there have been some foreign travel-associated cases. Local Zika virus transmission has been reported mostly in Central and South America and the Caribbean.

Oregon reported its first case of sexually transmitted Zika in late February involving a man who had traveled in a Zika-affected country and his female sex partner, who had not traveled. Both people later tested positive for Zika.

There is no vaccine to prevent or medicine to treat Zika. It's important to remember that Zika seldom causes serious illness. Four out of five people who get Zika have no symptoms. When symptoms occur, they are generally mild and include fever, rash, joint pain and redness of the eyes. The disease is concerning, however, because of its potential link to serious birth defects in babies born to women infected during pregnancy.

Check out a list of the *10 things Oregonians should know about Zika* and get the latest news and updates at www.healthoregon.org/zika.

What's New with Rapid Testing

A lot of things have changed in the world of rapid HIV testing technology over the past 10 years. There are a variety of rapid HIV tests now available on the market to meet the needs of local health departments, community-based organizations, and medical facilities. Be sure to check out the HIV Prevention Program's Rapid HIV Test Chart available at <http://bit.ly/rapid-HT> which is updated regularly. This chart includes information on each FDA-approved rapid HIV test, including pricing and technical information.

After many years, the HIV Prevention Program has discontinued its statewide price agreement with OraSure. Partners who wish to order OraQuick rapid HIV tests can continue to do so, but they will now be billed directly by OraSure and not the program.

There is also a rapid syphilis test (Syphilis Health Check) now available from Trinity Biotech. The National Coalition of STD Directors has produced a helpful primer about the rapid syphilis test with more information available at <http://www.ncsddc.org/resources/rapid-syphilis-test-pamphlet>.

Female Condom Available with No Co-Pay

Did you know, that thanks to the Affordable Care Act, the FC2 female condom (also known as the reality condom) can be obtained for free through most insurance plans? Under the ACA, new insurance plans, whether individual or employer-sponsored, are required to cover a range of Food and Drug Administration-approved contraception, including the female condom. To obtain the female condom for free without a co-pay through their insurance plans, women must receive a prescription from their medical provider. The National Family Planning and Reproductive Health Association and the National Coalition of STD Directors have put together a variety of useful materials for both consumers and medical providers around reimbursement for the female condom. Visit <http://www.ncsddc.org/femalecondom> for more information.

Upcoming events

Women & Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day

March 10

Learn more at www.womenshealth.gov/nwghaad/

April 6-7 (Bend)

Register by March 30 at

www.surveymonkey.com/r/bendSTDtraining

National Native HIV/AIDS Awareness Day

March 20

Learn more at www.nnhaad.org

STD Awareness Month

April

Learn more at www.cdc.gov/std/sam/

World TB Day

March 24

Learn more at www.cdc.gov/tb/worldtbdays/

Women & Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Event

Intergenerational Community Dialogue about Women & HIV Community

April 2, 1pm- 5:30pm

Charles Jordan Community Center (9009 N. Foss, Portland)

LGBTQ Meaningful Care Conference

March 25

Sheraton Airport Hotel (Portland)

Learn more at <http://oregonlgbtqhealth.org/mcc>

Public Health Week

April 4 - 10

Learn more at www.healthoregon.org/phweek

STD Syphilis Regional Trainings for Local Health Departments and Tribes

March 30-31 (Medford)

Register by March 23 at

www.surveymonkey.com/r/medfordSTDtraining

National Youth HIV and AIDS Awareness Day

April 10

Learn more at <http://bit.ly/NYHAAD>

Check out Native VOICES!

Congratulations to the Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board! Their HIV prevention intervention, Native VOICES (Video Opportunities for Innovative Condom Education and Safer Sex) was added to the CDC's Compendium of Evidence-Based Interventions and Best Practices for HIV Prevention in December 2015. Native VOICES is the first and only prevention intervention specifically designed for and evaluated with American Indian and Alaska Native youth. The centerpiece of Native VOICES is a 23-minute video that includes topics such as talking to partners about sex, STD testing, defining and enforcing personal values, and healthy relationships.

To learn more about Native VOICES, visit <http://bit.ly/1TmajMO>.

April is STD Awareness Month

STD Awareness Month in April is just around the corner. It is a great opportunity to raise awareness around the importance of being screened and treated for sexually transmitted infections and the key role good sexual health plays in everyone's lives. The national theme for 2016 is *Talk. Test. Treat* and focuses on the three simple actions everyone can take to protect their sexual health and the sexual health of their partners and community. Check out some great STD Awareness Resources that can be adapted and used in a variety of settings at www.cdc.gov/std/sam/.

STD Awareness Month also provides us with an opportunity to acknowledge the countless professionals across the state who work to prevent and treat sexually transmitted infections among Oregonians. To the doctors, nurses, Disease Intervention Specialists, community health workers, health educators, and other Public Health professionals who do their part each day, thank you for all you do!