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Helping to grow healthier South Texans



Zika Virus Alert: "Fight the Bite!"

Driscoll Health Plan wants its members to be aware of the Zika Virus:

What is it? The **Zika virus** is spread mostly through the bite of an infected mosquito. The Zika virus can be spread from a pregnant mother to her child and through sexual contact with an affected male partner.

Where is it? **Zika virus outbreaks** are present in many countries. Within the United States they are carried mostly by returning travelers and people along the border.

Who is at Risk? The Zika virus **during pregnancy** can cause birth defects, including a rare brain condition in which a baby's head is smaller than normal.

What are the Symptoms? Symptoms are flu-like. The illness linked with Zika virus is usually mild with symptoms lasting for several days to a week. The most common symptoms of Zika are fever, rash, joint pain, and pink eye.

Testing is recommended as part of your prenatal care based on the area of the state you live. Ask your doctor if you will need to be tested for the Zika virus at your next prenatal visit. Those with concern should see their primary care physician or OB provider.

Prevention? At this time no vaccine exists to prevent the Zika virus, but there are ways to protect yourself. **Use mosquito repellent** when you are outdoors to protect your family. It is also recommended that pregnant women not travel to Zika affected areas.

We now offer mosquito repellent at no cost to you. All females who are between the ages of 10-55 or pregnant women of any age and males 14 and older can get up to two cans of mosquito repellent each month through December 31, 2017. You don't need a prescription if the pharmacy is a participating pharmacy. Call the pharmacy ahead of time to make sure they are a participating pharmacy. You may also want to make sure they have the repellent on hand before you go to the pharmacy. You will need a prescription from your doctor if the pharmacy isn't a participating pharmacy. Be sure to take your Medicaid ID card with you when you go to get the mosquito repellent.