

THE 2015 – 2016 ZIKA OUTBREAK

Key Facts About the Zika Virus



The Zika virus was first discovered in 1947 in rhesus monkeys; the first human case was identified in 1952



1 out of 5 people infected experience symptoms, and in those who do, symptoms are mild

Outbreaks have occurred in tropical Africa, Southeast Asia, the Pacific, and more recently, the Americas



Zika is transmitted primarily through the bite of the aedes aegypti mosquito; there have also been cases of transmission via sexual contact and blood transfusion



Public health officials have determined that Zika virus is a cause of microcephaly and other severe fetal brain defects



No vaccine or cure exists, and despite ongoing research, a vaccine likely remains years away

Cumulative Number of Countries, Territories and Areas Worldwide Reporting Local Zika Virus Transmission, January 2015 – May 2016

