How Zika is spread through sex

- Zika can be passed through sex from a person who has Zika to his or her sex partners. Sex includes vaginal, anal, and oral sex and the sharing of sex toys.
- Zika can be passed through sex, even if the infected person does not have symptoms at the time. It can be passed from a person with Zika before their symptoms start, while they have symptoms, and after their symptoms end and may also be passed by a person who never develops symptoms.
- Zika can remain in semen longer than in other body fluids, including vaginal fluids, urine, and blood.

Studies are underway to find out

- How long Zika stays in the semen and vaginal fluids of people who have Zika.
- How long Zika can be passed to sex partners.
- If Zika passed to a pregnant woman during sex has a different risk for birth defects than Zika transmitted by a mosquito bite.

Pregnant?

What you should know about Zika and sex.

Zika can be passed through sex by a person infected with Zika to his or her sex partners. Because Zika can cause certain birth defects, take steps to prevent your partner from getting Zika during her pregnancy.

If you have a partner who lives in or has traveled to an area with risk of Zika, protect your pregnancy.

If you have vaginal, anal, or oral sex, use a condom every time during your pregnancy.

OR

Don’t have sex with your partner during your pregnancy.

If you think your partner may have or had Zika, tell your doctor or healthcare provider about

- His or her travel history
- If he or she took steps to prevent mosquito bites
- How long your partner stayed in an area with risk of Zika
- If you had sex without a condom
- If you had sex without a condom

Do you have a pregnant partner?

Zika virus can be spread by a person infected with Zika to his or her sex partners. Because Zika can cause certain birth defects, take steps to prevent your partner from getting Zika during her pregnancy.

If you live in or travel to an area with risk of Zika, protect your partner’s pregnancy.

If you have vaginal, anal, or oral sex, use a condom every time you have sex during the pregnancy.

OR

Don’t have sex with your pregnant partner during the pregnancy.

If you think you may have or had Zika, tell your doctor or healthcare provider about

- Your travel history
- If you took steps to prevent mosquito bites
- How long you stayed in an area with risk of Zika
- If you had sex without a condom
- If you had sex without a condom

For more information: www.cdc.gov/zika