



Verona Environmental Commission

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The Zika Virus and Verona

On April 11, the federal Centers for Disease Control said that the mosquitos capable of transmitting the Zika virus are now present in 30 U.S. states, including New Jersey.

The Zika virus was discovered in 1947 and most frequently causes a fever, rash or joint pain. It has, however, recently been implicated in birth defects in Brazil and microcephaly, a smaller than normal head size in infants. As of April 13, the CDC reported 358 travel-associated Zika cases in the U.S., including eight in New Jersey. The CDC reported no locally acquired Zika cases in the U.S. as yet. The Verona Environmental Commission will continue to monitor the information from the CDC about Zika.

The VEC would also like to share the CDC's tips for preventing a Zika infection, which can be found here: <http://www.cdc.gov/zika/prevention/>. The Environmental Working Group, a national non-profit organization, also has prevention tips, which you can read here: <http://www.ewg.org/research/ewgs-guide-bug-repellents-age-zika/what-you-can-do-about-zika>

Residents can limit the breeding of mosquitoes that could spread Zika or other diseases by eliminating standing water around their home. The CDC recommends emptying any item that could hold water (like planters, buckets or toys) once a week, then scrubbing the container and turning it over so that more water cannot collect.

The CDC also recommends tightly covering water storage containers such as rain barrels, so that mosquitoes cannot lay eggs in them. The rain barrels that are being sold by Sustainable Verona to be picked up at the May 21 Green Fair have been designed to comply with standards set by the Environmental Protection Agency, which includes a locking lid and mosquito-proof screen to keep bugs out.