

Official statement on the threat by the Zika Virus

In recent months, a phenomenal increase of the Zika virus has been observed in Latin America. This is regarded to be the consequence of comprehensive environmental and global climate change as well as international migration.

The Tropical Medicine Department of the Medical Mission Hospital in Würzburg, Germany advises pregnant women to avoid travel to those countries affected by the Zika virus outbreak. The risk of anomalies in early childhood cannot be excluded at this time in case of infection. In case travel cannot be avoided, it is advised to get 24-hour insect protection. In these instances, the traveler should seek medical consultation with a doctor experienced in travel medicine.

In case the traveler is not pregnant, the danger of getting infected is presently not above the normal scale. Thus, a general travel warning is not justified.

Sexual transmission of the Zika virus cannot be completely ruled out. Abstinence or the use of condoms up to 28 days after the possible exposure can be a useful precaution.

It is extremely unlikely that the Zika virus will spread in Germany and presently a threat scenario is not realistic.

This official statement has been formulated in accordance with the German Society for Tropical Medicine and International Health (DTG), the Robert-Koch-Institute and the Federal Foreign Office.