



COMAL COUNTY

PUBLIC INFORMATION

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Residents should remain alert to combat Zika

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NEW BRAUNFELS — Comal County residents should continue to stay alert and informed, protecting themselves from mosquito bites as Zika virus continues to pose health risks, according to the county's Office of Public Health.

The county regularly coordinates with the Texas Department of State Health Services to monitor developments and follow the most recent state and federal guidelines for dealing with the disease, which especially affects pregnant mothers and their fetuses.

The most common signs and symptoms of Zika include:

- Fever
- Rash
- Headache
- Joint pain
- Conjunctivitis (red eyes)
- Muscle pain

“We encourage anyone who thinks they might have Zika to contact their health care provider, who can consult with the Office of Public Health on testing,” said Dr. Dorothy Overman, a family-practice physician who serves as Comal County's health authority.

Residents can combat Zika by protecting themselves from mosquito bites. Steps include:

- Wearing long-sleeved shirts and long pants;
- Using EPA-registered insect repellents;
- Using permethrin-treated clothing;
- Eliminating standing water on your property, including cleaning rain gutters
- Staying and sleeping in screened-in or air-conditioned rooms; and
- Avoiding or limiting outdoor activities during peak mosquito times.

Comal County crews also abate mosquitoes in the public right of way as needed, and on private

property that is vacant or abandoned on a complaint basis. Residents can call 830-608-2090 to begin the abatement process on vacant or abandoned land.

“Keeping our county healthy requires a full community effort,” said Angela Lopez, the county’s public health emergency preparedness coordinator. “Anyone looking for more information can visit TexasZika.org or CDC.gov.”

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