

Zika Virus: UPSC Science and Technology

Zika Virus infection is caused by the Zika Virus (ZIKV) belonging to the Flaviviridae family. It is an infection transmitted through the bite of infected female mosquitoes, *Aedes aegypti* and *Aedes albopictus*. It usually bites during the day time, peaking during early morning and late evening. Zika virus infection during pregnancy results in birth defects in newborn babies, a condition called microcephaly and can also cause temporary paralysis in adults.

For more details on the exam conducted by UPSC, candidates can visit the link [IAS Exam](#).

Modes of Transmission

The Zika Virus is primarily spread by the female *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes, which is usually active during the daytime. The same species of mosquito is also responsible for spreading the Dengue fever as well. Apart from this type, several other species of mosquito with the genus *Aedes* have also been found to transmit the Zika virus they are as follows:

1. *Aedes africanus*
2. *Aedes furcifer*
3. *Aedes hensilli*
4. *Aedes vittatus*
5. *Aedes luteocephalus*

Zika Fever

The outcome of a Zika virus infection is a fever that mildly resembles the symptoms of Dengue fever. The symptoms of Zika fever may last less than seven days.

The diagnosis is done by testing the blood, urine or saliva of the infected person.

For the prevention of the fever, it is recommended that avoid getting bitten by mosquitoes where the disease has been a common occurrence and ensuring that any infected object is sanitised upon discovery.

Relevant Questions for Zika Virus

What are the Symptoms of Zika Virus Infection?

There are multiple symptoms which are listed below.

1. Skin rashes
2. Muscle pain

3. Joint pain
4. Headache
5. Fever, temperature around 102 degrees.

These symptoms usually last for 2 to 7 days.

Where did the Major Outbreaks of Zika Virus take place?

The three major outbreaks took place in the following places

1. Yap Islands (2007)
2. French Polynesia (2013-14)
3. South Americas (2015-16)

Which States in India had Reported the Outbreak of Zika Virus?

The first cases of Zika virus were reported in 2017. Zika virus infection was reported in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu.