



5 Feb 2016

## Armed Services Blood Program Zika Virus Update

The Zika virus remains front and center as United States government and public health organizations work diligently to keep the public informed.

With our global mission, the safety and security of the military blood supply, and in coordination with U.S. blood and blood product licensing and regulatory agencies, an official policy has been developed, and will be implemented by the military blood program, 12 February 2016. This policy is designed to reduce the incidence of transfusion-transmitted Zika.

Implementation by 12 February is necessary for Service Blood Program Offices, their medical consultants, and, quality assurance professionals to provide Service-specific instructions to make policy and process changes, educate staff, and ensure appropriate logistics for tracking and monitoring compliance by all blood program components.

The military blood program is licensed by and falls under the jurisdiction of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and regulatory bodies such as the AABB.

For questions about Zika, related to blood donations, please contact Lt Col Jerome Vinluan, Deputy Director for Policy, Armed Services Blood Program Office, at [jerome.l.vinluan.mil@mail.mil](mailto:jerome.l.vinluan.mil@mail.mil)

For questions about Zika, related to the Department of Defense but unrelated to blood donations, please contact Maj Ben Sakrisson, at [benjamin.e.sakrisson.mil@mail.mil](mailto:benjamin.e.sakrisson.mil@mail.mil).

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### HELPFUL LINKS TO THE MOST RECENT INFORMATION ON THE ZIKA VIRUS

CDC update for the Zika virus:

<http://www.cdc.gov/zika>.

AABB Zika, Chikungunya, and, Dengue Bulletin

<http://www.aabb.org/programs/publications/bulletins/Documents/ab16-03.pdf>

Health and Human Services, Zika 101, Dr. Anne Schuchat, Principal Deputy Director, CDC

<http://www.hhs.gov/blog/2016/01/28/zika-101.html>

Defense Health Agency Zika FAQ

<http://www.health.mil/Frequently-Asked-Questions/Zika-Virus>