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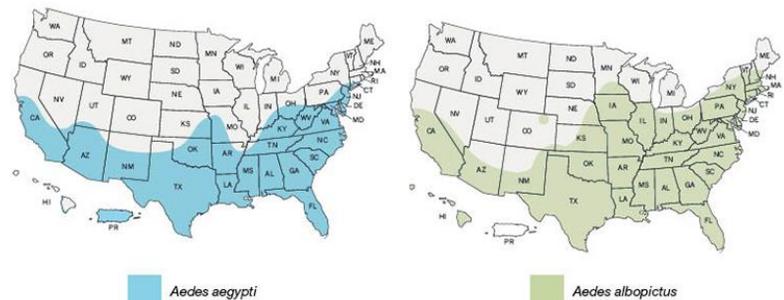
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**PREVENTION IS KEY TO KEEPING ZIKA AND OTHER MOSQUITO-BORNE ILLNESS RISK LOW**

**Eau Claire, WI, May 20th, 2016** – Although people are unlikely to contract Zika virus from a mosquito in Wisconsin this summer, one travel-related case was confirmed on May 18<sup>th</sup>. The Wisconsin resident recently traveled to Honduras, where mosquitoes that carry Zika are common.

Zika virus is mainly spread by the bite of an infected *Aedes* species mosquito. Mosquitoes most likely to carry Zika virus are generally found in southern states, and cannot survive cold Wisconsin winter months. This means the risk of getting the virus from a mosquito in Wisconsin is very low. Common symptoms include fever, rash, and joint pain.



Range of the *Aedes* species mosquitos in the United States  
Source: [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)

Mosquitoes can carry many other diseases besides Zika like West Nile Virus and Dengue Fever. “Preventing mosquito bites in the first place is the best way to keep your risk of infection low,” says Shane Sanderson, Environmental Health Director of the Eau Claire City-County Health Department. Keep your risk of mosquito bites low so you and your family can enjoy the outdoors by:

- Keeping window screens in good repair
- Using an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)-approved mosquito repellent containing DEET
- Wearing protective (long-sleeve) clothing outdoors when possible
- At least once a week – dispose, clean, or empty items holding standing water like plastic containers, birdbaths, or ceramic pots. Turn over kayaks, canoes, boats, or wheel barrels when not in use –mosquitoes lay eggs in and around standing water
- Change water in birdbaths or pet dishes once every three days

For more information about Zika and other mosquito-related diseases, visit:

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

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