

## **ZIKA VIRUS INFORMATION**

Cleburne ISD Health Services is providing the following information in order to address issues and concerns with West Nile virus that is transmitted through mosquitoes. We hope that you will find this information helpful for protecting your child while at school and your family at home.

### **FACTS ABOUT ZIKA VIRUS**

- Zika virus is primarily spread to people through mosquito bites. The virus can be spread from mother to child. Spread of the virus through blood transfusion and sexual contact has also been reported.
- Most people infected with the virus have mild or no symptoms. For those who do develop symptoms, illness is generally mild and typically lasts a few days to a week. The most common symptoms of Zika virus disease are fever, rash, joint pain, and conjunctivitis (red eyes)
- Severe disease requiring hospitalization is uncommon and fatalities are rare. An increase in Guillain-Barré syndrome was noted during an outbreak of Zika virus in French Polynesia in 2014. An increase in **microcephaly** was noted during an outbreak of Zika virus in Brazil in 2015. <http://www.texaszika.org/>

### **SAFE USE OF REPELLENTS**

- Always follow the label recommendations.
- Apply to exposed skin and clothing. Do not apply under clothing or over cuts, wounds, or irritated skin. Look for repellants that have DEET (N, N-diethyl-meta-toluamide) for the best protection against mosquitoes.
- After returning indoors, wash treated skin with soap and water.
- Apply to face by putting repellent on hands and rubbing it carefully over the face.

### **CLEBURNE ISD PROCEDURES FOR INSECT REPELLANT USE DURING SCHOOL HOURS**

- Concerned parents are strongly encouraged to use a repellent on their child before they leave for school, especially younger children who may have difficulty applying the repellent safely.
- No repellent sprays or lotions will be provided by or applied by school personnel during the school day.
- Parents who are concerned about mosquito exposure during the school day may send a lotion, wipe on, or wristband type of repellent for use by their child. (Sprays pose the risk of accidental exposure and will not be allowed.) Parent/guardian must include written permission stating that their child may use the repellent sent to school by parent.
- Parents should instruct their child in the proper use and application of an acceptable repellent, since it will be retained in the child's possession (backpack, etc.) for use when going outside for activities or practices.
- Students with physical limitations that make it impossible to self apply a repellent will need to bring parent/guardian written permission (with special instructions) authorizing school personnel to apply repellent sent by parent.

Efforts will be ongoing through Maintenance and Operations to prevent standing water and tall grass in play and practice areas. Please contact your child's campus if you have any questions

Thank you,

Cleburne ISD Health Services

