



Laredo Active Living



City of Laredo Health Department



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

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News Release

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To: All Media Contacts
From: City of Laredo Health Department
Through: Hector F. Gonzalez, MD, MPH, Director of Health

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Prevent Zika Infection

Laredo, TX- Mosquito season is here and the City of Laredo Health Department (CLHD) is reminding the public to take precautions. All pregnant women in Laredo/Webb and Zapata Counties should be tested for Zika virus in the **first and second trimesters of their pregnancy. Also, anyone with a rash and at least one other common Zika symptom (fever, joint pain or eye redness) should also be tested for Zika virus.** For women who are not pregnant, we recommend taking preventive measures with some form of birth control and everyone should take the following mosquito control measures:

To assist with prevention the Texas Health and Human Services Commission has approved repellent purchase as of May 1, 2017 to December 31, 2017 and you do not need a prescription for most persons. The following persons qualify under these programs:

Pregnant women of any age, women and girls ages 10-55, and males 14 and older, as applicable, in the following programs:

- Medicaid
- Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)
- CHIP-Perinatal
- Healthy Texas Women
- Children with Special Health Care Needs (CSHCN) Services Program
- Family Planning Program

Benefit details:

- One can/bottle of mosquito repellent is permitted per pharmacy, with one refill allowed per month.
- Mosquito repellent won't count against the monthly three prescription limit for those clients with a monthly limit.
- There is no cost to Medicaid or Healthy Texas Women clients (**for those enrolled at the City of Laredo Health Department you can you can obtain repellent at the Women's Health Clinic at 2600 Cedar**)
- CHIP members may pay the generic copay or less if the cost of the repellent is less than the copay.
- Many pharmacies can provide you mosquito repellent without a prescription from your doctor. Contact your favorite pharmacy to make sure they are participating in this benefit.

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To find your pharmacy's phone number, you can use the Pharmacy Search on the following website: <https://www.txvendordrug.com>.

- If you are enrolled in managed care, please refer to that health plan's website, or call the Member Services number on the back of your Member ID card.
- If your pharmacy recommends getting a prescription, or you are enrolled in CSHCN, contact your healthcare provider, and then ask them to send a prescription to your pharmacy. Your provider can send a prescription to your pharmacy.
- **For those enrolled at the City of Laredo Health Department you can obtain repellent at the Women's Health Clinic at 2600 Cedar**

Remember

- Use mosquito repellent when outside
- Wear long sleeves and pants
- Use air conditioning and make sure window screens are properly installed and maintained
- Pick up trash and dump out containers holding standing water around their homes
- Cover gutters and drains with netting
- Report abandoned unkempt yards and illegal tire dumping

For more information on Zika call the CLHD Epidemiology Division at (956) 795-4951 or link to Department of State Health Services: www.TexasZika.org and www.TexasZika.org/prevention or Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: www.cdc.gov/zika/