In February 2016, the World Health Organization declared Zika virus a Public Health Emergency of International Concern. The Santa Barbara County Disease Control and Prevention Unit enhanced local surveillance of Zika virus infections and prioritized prevention education targeting the at-risk and medical communities. To date, 25 suspected Zika infections have been reported in Santa Barbara County with none confirmed. Current information about Zika:

- Zika virus infection has been associated with severe fetal brain defects and microcephaly.
- Zika virus is transmitted through the bite of an infected mosquito
- Zika virus is transmitted by an infected man to his sex partner(s)
- Zika virus is transmitted by an infected pregnant women to her fetus during pregnancy or delivery
- The mosquito responsible for transmitting Zika virus (Aedes species, aegypti and A. albopictus) has not been identified in Santa Barbara County although it is present in nearby counties including Los Angeles and Kern. Information about Vector Control in SB County is available at: http://mvmdistrict.com/

As of May 20 2016, the California Department of Public Health reported 49 travel-associated cases of Zika in California, 10 of which were pregnant and 1 confirmed to be sexually transmitted. http://www.cdph.ca.gov/HealthInfo/discond/Documents/TravelAssociatedCasesofZikaVirusinCA.pdf

Most people infected with Zika virus will not develop symptoms. Though there is no specific treatment for Zika virus disease, there are actions that can be taken to prevent infection http://www.cdc.gov/zika/prevention/. If you suspect a patient with Zika virus infection, please report to the Santa Barbara County Disease Control Unit via the CalREDIE Provider Portal.


New California & Federal Smoking Laws

The first week in May was a historic one in tobacco control. On May 4, 2016, California Governor Jerry Brown signed a package of new tobacco bills into law. Key aspects of these bills entail:
Increasing the age to buy, possess, and use tobacco products from 18 to 21.
- Classifying and regulating electronic cigarettes as tobacco products.
- Prohibiting electronic cigarette use in all places where smoking and tobacco use is prohibited.

California is the second state, after Hawaii, to increase the smoking age from 18 to 21. The Institute of Medicine reports that 90% of daily smokers began smoking before age 19¹. Increasing the age to buy, possess, and use tobacco to 21 years-old will prevent many young people from starting to use tobacco products. These bills take effect on June 9, 2016. Click here to learn more about the new California tobacco laws.

On May 5, 2016, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) made its long-awaited announcement to extend its regulatory authority to electronic cigarettes and other tobacco products, including cigars, cigarillos, and hookah tobacco. Beginning August 8, 2016, the FDA will be able to:

- Review new tobacco products not yet on the market.
- Help prevent misleading claims by tobacco product manufacturers.
- Communicate the potential risks of tobacco products.

Prior to this decision, electronic cigarettes were not required to undergo product safety evaluations, disclose ingredients, or communicate the potential harm from using electronic cigarettes on product labels. For more information on the new FDA regulations, click here.

**Orchard® Software LIS**

We are happy to announce the arrival of Orchard® Software, the new Laboratory Information System (LIS) for Santa Barbara County Public Health Laboratory. Since July 2015, a collaborative team of individuals from the Public Health Lab, Information Technology, EMR Support, Fiscal, and Administration departments have been working with Orchard® Software to build a system specific to our needs.

We anticipate that the new LIS will provide a more efficient workflow in the Public Health Laboratory as well as improve communication between the lab and our Health Care Centers and Community Partners. We will be rolling out the opportunity for our providers to access the Orchard Portal for test submission and tracking. Orchard can work with partners to build an interface for results to go to specific Electronic Medical Records. In addition, we plan to have our LIS interfaced with CalREDIE in the near future.

**Epidemiology Program Updates**

- 2016 First Quarter Reportable Communicable Diseases Counts for the County: [http://cosb.countyofsfb.org/phd/epi.aspx?id=23610](http://cosb.countyofsfb.org/phd/epi.aspx?id=23610)
  - Leading Causes of Death in Santa Barbara County 2015
  - West Nile Virus data 2016
  - County Birth Data by City and by Birth Weight 2005-2014
  - Influenza Sentinel Program Weekly Report 2015-2016
- More to come on the final Community Health Assessment Report – publication date set for July 2016 and community presentation dates/locations on the report are being scheduled across the County.