

## **MGH Blood Donor Center Zika Virus Update**

**If you have traveled to (or resided in) any of the areas on this list (<http://www.cdc.gov/zika/geo/index.html>) in the last 4 weeks you have to wait until 28 days after your return to be able to donate. If you traveled to Miami-Dade Broward or Palm Beach counties in the state of Florida or if you traveled outside the continental United States and Canada in the 4 weeks prior to your donation please check this website during the next 2 weeks as the CDC may identify new Zika-affected areas.**

**If in the last 4 weeks you had sexual contact with a man, who in the 3 months prior to your sexual contact was at risk for Zika virus (including a man with a Zika virus diagnosis, or a man who has traveled to our resided in an active Zika virus transmission area), you have to wait to donate until 4 weeks after the last sexual contact.**

**We are doing this for the following reasons:**

- Zika virus infection is spreading rapidly in the Western Hemisphere, outside the United States and Canada as well as in other locations.
- Zika virus infection is mild in most people, but there is concern that Zika is causing serious brain injury to infants whose mothers have been infected during pregnancy and an increase in cases of Guillain-Barré syndrome, a temporary but serious disorder causing paralysis.
- Zika virus can be present in the blood of an infected person who has no symptoms of illness.
- There is concern that Zika virus can be transmitted by blood.
- There are also cases of sexual transmission of Zika virus; the length of time that infectious Zika virus is present in semen remains unknown.

***For further information please call us at (617)726-8177.***