Zika is a virus that is spread through the bite of an affected Aedes species mosquito. The virus may also be sexually transmitted.
Symptoms of a person with Zika include:

- Fever, rash, joint pain, red eyes.
- Occasional muscle pain and headache.

However, 80% of people infected exhibit no symptoms.
The main danger of Zika is a birth defect known as microcephaly in the fetuses of women who are infected while pregnant.
Zika may also cause a rare disorder called Guillain Barré Syndrome, which can cause temporary paralysis or even death in some cases.
There are 70 different species of mosquitoes in New York State. 

Aedes albopictus mosquitoes make up just 3-5% and may transmit Zika.
Aedes mosquitoes have distinctive behaviors:

- Lay eggs in standing water.
- Live in populated areas.
- Considered aggressive biters.
- Active primarily in daytime.
Aedes mosquitoes are causing a widespread outbreak of Zika in South and Central America.
And CDC officials are projecting a 20% infection rate in Puerto Rico.
2 types of Aedes also exist in the U.S.

Aedes aegypti

CONFIRMED TO CARRY ZIKA

Aedes albopictus

NOT CONFIRMED, BUT POSSIBLE
Potential Areas of Outbreak Due to Aedes Albopictus

Confirmed presence

Monitoring for northward spread

MOSQUITO SEASON: April – September
New York State has been offering free testing for all pregnant women if they or their partner has traveled to a Zika-affected area.

We are the only state in the nation to provide this service.
Today we are announcing a 6-Point Zika Action Plan to prevent an outbreak in New York.
Action Plan Target Region

- New York City
- Nassau
- Suffolk
- Westchester
- Rockland
- Orange
- Putnam
- Dutchess
- Ulster
- Sullivan
Our plan is designed to specifically target the type of Aedes mosquito in New York.

- Lifespan of approximately 3 weeks.
- Stays within 200 yards of its birthplace.
- Prefer to breed in small containers of clean water.
- Cannot trap using traditional mosquito traps.
The State will distribute 100,000 larvicide tablets throughout the target region to eliminate Zika at its source.

- 1 tablet lasts 2-3 months
- Call Zika Information Hotline to request tablets
New Yorkers are encouraged to use larvicide tablets in permanent places of standing water, such as flower pots, and remove sources of standing water, such as old tires, children's toys, plastic containers and even clogged gutters – especially after it rains.
The State will aggressively monitor the mosquito population by deploying special mosquito traps to collect and test mosquitoes across the region to identify and respond to potential Zika transmission.
We will deploy traps in 1,000 locations per month and test 60,000 Aedes mosquitoes per month at Wadsworth Lab located in Albany.
The State will provide free Zika Protection Kits to pregnant women.
Zika Prevention Kits include:

- Educational materials
- Insect repellent
- Larvicide tablets to treat standing water
- Condoms
The State will distribute 20,000 kits to healthcare providers throughout the region.
We will deploy a Rapid Response Team wherever local transmission of Zika is confirmed.
The Rapid Response Team will be composed of officials from the DOH, DEC, and the Office of Emergency Management to inspect surrounding areas, perform additional treatment and develop a local action plan.
The Commissioner of DOH will issue emergency regulations requiring all local health departments to submit Zika Action Plans with updated protocols for trapping, testing and control.
The State will launch an aggressive public awareness campaign at points of entry – such as airports – on the dangers of the Zika virus.
The campaign will include a dedicated website, telephone hotline, brochures in multiple languages and public service announcements.
In summary – 6-Point NY Zika Action Plan:

1. Eliminate Zika at its source – State will distribute 100,000 larvicide tablets.
2. Aggressively monitor – special trapping and testing.
3. Provide free Zika Protection Kits to pregnant women.
5. Issue emergency regulations requiring local Zika Action Plans with updated protocols.