Acting on the growing scare over Zika, Delaware and Texas will allow Medicaid coverage for insect repellent as a Zika infection prevention strategy. Such policies are in line with a June 1 guidance [2] from federal Medicaid officials.

Last week Delaware announced that it would pay for over-the-counter insect repellents, The News Journal reported [3]. No other details were reported.

In Texas, starting August 9, women enrolled in Medicaid can get a prescription from their health care provider and pick up two cans of repellent a month at their local pharmacy, the Dallas News reported [4] on Aug. 8. The approved sprays contain either DEET or Picardin. The program is estimated to cost about $12.6 million in state funds according to the Dallas News [4].

In Florida, Gov. Scott told the Miami Herald [5] the state would work with ob/gyn doctors in the affected Miami area to distribute prevention kits. The CDC recommends [6] that kits contain insect repellent, as well bed nets, standing water treatment tabs and condoms.

Zika infections in pregnant women have been linked by scientists to microcephaly, a birth defect that results in small head size in infants and severe developmental problems. The first cases of Zika infections caused by local mosquitos in the 50 states have been reported in a small area of Miami. Locally acquired infections have been confirmed in 16 individuals by the Florida Department of Health in its daily Zika update, dated August 5 [7].

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