The first case of local transmission of the Zika virus outside of Florida has been reported in Brownsville, Texas.

The Washington Post reports the person infected is a 43-year-old woman who is not pregnant. See here for the news release from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The CDC says that 4,444 cases of Zika have been reported in the 50 U.S. states as of Nov. 23, 2016. Local transmission is blamed for 182 of those cases; another 36 cases were caused by sexual transmission. All the locally transmitted cases have been in Florida up until the Texas case.

The Texas case comes on the heels of the World Health Organization declaring last week that Zika was no longer an international public health emergency. The WHO reiterated that the designation change didn’t take away from the importance of Zika.

“If anything, it’s escalated in importance,” WHO spokesperson David Haymann said. Rather than treating Zika as a short-term emergency it has escalated into a major activity within the World Health Organization, the Washington Post reported.

By: Debra Miller

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