# **Zika Virus Found In Recent Shipment Of Bananas; CDC Is Warning Of Safety Concerns**

Interestingly enough, my cousin’s wife just recently posted this article on Facebook, commenting how horrible this is and how sad it makes her since she just bought a ton of bananas - apparently she eats one daily. The article claims that the CDC is removing ALL bananas from grocery store shelves because they are contaminated with the Zika Virus and any bananas purchased should be pitched (“Zika Virus,” n.d.).

I read her article link and the first thing I did was use snopes.com to check this as certain aspects struck me as fishy:

1. I’ve heard NOTHING in any of the local news sources about this or Zika in general.
2. Is it even possible that Zika is spread through ingestion? I’ve only ever heard of mosquitoes transmitting it through their bite.
3. That picture, though...
4. There is no author listed.
5. There is no publication date.
6. There are no links to any other supporting documents.
7. The only date listed is 2016 - so this information may be out of date (IF it were factual to begin with).
8. Random monetary number of the cost of Zika over a lifetime - where did that even come from?

Snopes.com indeed stamped this one as FALSE and has apparently been a reemergent article over the past 3 years (Macgill, 2019). Even had I not used snopes to fact check, I would probably have not believed the story anyways. The fact that there was no author or publication date listed is enough that I felt the article was less than legitimate in the first place. I did a quick google search and Zika is transmittable from infected mosquitoes through a bite, sexually with an infected partner, blood transfusions, and to a fetus from a pregnant mother; not through ingestion as I initially wondered (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2019).

References:

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2019, May 20). *Zika transmission.* Retrieved from <https://www.cdc.gov/zika/prevention/transmission-methods.html>

Macgill, D. (2019, May 28). *Did the U.S. Government warn about bananas contaminated with Zika?* Retrieved from <https://www.snopes.com/fact-check/zika-bananas-ecuador/>

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