



**Miami-Dade County**  
**EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER**  
**FLASH REPORT # 6**  
**Zika Virus**

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REPORT DATE  
 July 29, 2016

EOC ACTIVATION LEVEL  
 Level 3 - Monitoring

REPORT TIME  
 12:00 PM

**SUMMARY OF CURRENT SITUATION AND ACTIONS**

- The Florida Department of Health (FDOH) has concluded that four Zika related cases under investigation in Miami-Dade and Broward Counties are likely a result of local transmission in the Wynwood section of the City of Miami.
- These four cases would be the first non-travel related cases in the Continental U.S.
- The Miami-Dade EOC has created a WebEOC® Zika incident for collaborating and sharing incident information with partner agencies.
- The Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County is actively conducting door-to-door outreach and voluntary urine sample collection in the impacted area and Zika Virus Prevention Kits will be made available to pregnant women.
- FDA has issued new donor screening recommendations for blood collection centers in Miami-Dade and Broward Counties. <http://www.fda.gov/BiologicsBloodVaccines/SafetyAvailability/ucm513583.htm>.
- The Mosquito Control Division continues promoting the mosquito control *Drain and Cover* message via Miami-Dade County and FDOH webpages, and social media (Facebook and Twitter #drainandcovermiami). <http://www.miamidadegov/solidwaste/mosquito-control.asp>
- The Mosquito Control Division continues spraying operations throughout Miami-Dade County. County residents experiencing a mosquito nuisance are encouraged to call the 3-1-1 Contact Center.
- The Florida State Surgeon General and Secretary of Health have established a Zika hotline (855-622-6735) and also issue daily status reports on CDC-confirmed Zika cases by county. <http://www.floridahealth.gov/newsroom/index.html>

**ASSESSMENT & ANALYSIS DATA**

Symptoms

One in five (20%) people infected with Zika virus becomes symptomatic but, usually with mild symptoms which may occur 2-7 days after the mosquito vector bite and last no more than one week. Symptoms include: mild fever; skin rash or redness; headaches; arthralgia (joint stiffness); myalgia (episodes or zones of muscular pain); asthenia (lack of energy or loss of strength); conjunctivitis (pink eye); Guillain-Barre syndrome (GBS) (body's immune system attacks part of the peripheral nervous system).

Treatment and Testing

- As of July 29, 2016, Florida currently has the capacity to test 6,609 people for active Zika Virus and 2,059 for Zika antibodies which allows individuals to see if they ever been affected with the Zika virus.
- Currently, there is no vaccine or treatment for the Zika virus. Your best protection to avoid infection is to prevent mosquito breeding and protect yourself from mosquito bites. Information to protect yourself and your family from mosquito bites: <http://www.cdc.gov/zika/prevention/prevent-mosquito-bites.html>.

Transmission

Zika virus is primarily spread to people through the bite of an infected Aedes mosquito. The virus can be passed from mother to child (perinatal). Spread of the virus through sexual contact and blood transfusion has also been reported.

For additional information on the Zika virus, please visit:

- <http://www.cdc.gov/Zika/>
- <http://www.floridahealth.gov/diseases-and-conditions/zika-virus>

**ATTACHMENTS**

1. DWSM Drain and Cover Campaign (Page 2)
2. DOH-Miami-Dade County Press Release (Page 3)
3. Mayor's Memo on Mosquito Control Operations (Page 7)
4. Zika Virus Prevention Kits (Page 9)
5. Mosquito Control Social Media Messages (Page 10)
6. Commissioner of Agriculture Press Release (Page 12)
7. Governor Scott's Press Release (Page 13)

PREPARED BY  
 N. Batista

Title  
 EOC Planning Section Chief

Signature

# Feeling the sting of mosquitoes?



Then it's time to:

## DRAIN AND COVER

A collection of blue-tinted icons representing mosquito prevention: a bucket, a pair of pants, a white shirt, a bottle of repellent, and a house with a screen.

**Stop mosquitoes**  
from living and multiplying around your home or business.  
**Protect yourself**  
from mosquito bites and the diseases they carry.

### **DRAIN STANDING WATER.**

**DRAIN:** Garbage cans, house gutters, pool covers, coolers, toys, flower pots or any other containers where sprinkler or rain water has collected.

**DISCARD:** Old tires, drums, bottles, cans, pots and pans, broken appliances and other items that aren't being used.

**EMPTY AND CLEAN:** Birdbaths and pets' water bowls at least once or twice a week.

**PROTECT:** Boats and vehicles from rain with tarps that don't accumulate water.

**MAINTAIN:** The water balance (pool chemistry) of swimming pools. Empty plastic swimming pools when not in use.

### **COVER YOUR SKIN.**

**CLOTHING:** If you must be outside when mosquitoes are active, cover up. Wear shoes, socks, long pants, and long sleeves.

**REPELLENT:** Apply mosquito repellent to bare skin and clothing. Always use repellents according to the label. Repellents with DEET, picaridin, oil of lemon eucalyptus, and IR3535 are effective. Use mosquito netting to protect children younger than 2 months.

**COVER DOORS AND WINDOWS WITH SCREENS.** Keep mosquitoes out of your house. Repair broken screens on windows, doors, porches, and patios.



July 29, 2016



## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH RESPONDS TO LOCAL ZIKA CASES

### Contact:

Communications Office  
[NewsMedia@flhealth.gov](mailto:NewsMedia@flhealth.gov)  
850-245-4111

**Tallahassee, Fla.**—The Florida Department of Health has gathered enough information as part of its ongoing investigation into non-travel related cases of Zika in Miami-Dade and Broward counties to conclude that a high likelihood exists that four cases are the result of local transmission. At this time, the department believes that active transmission of the Zika virus is occurring in one small area in Miami-Dade County, just north of downtown. The exact location is within the boundaries of the following area: NW 5th Avenue to the west, US 1 to the east, NW/NE 38th Street to the north and NW/NE 20th Street to the south. This area is about 1 square mile and a map is below to detail the area. While no mosquitoes trapped tested positive for the Zika virus, the department believes these cases were likely transmitted through infected mosquitoes in this area.

The department is actively conducting door-to-door outreach and urine sample collection in the impacted area and will share more details as they become available. The results from these efforts will help department determine the number of people affected. These local cases were identified by clinicians who brought them to the attention of the department. In addition, blood banks in the area are currently excluding donations from impacted areas until screening protocols are in place.

In an effort to keep Florida residents and visitors safe and aware about the status of the Zika virus, the department will continue to issue a Zika virus update each week day at 2 p.m. Updates will include a CDC-confirmed Zika case count by county and information to better keep Floridians prepared.

**There are three new travel-related cases today in Miami-Dade County.** According to CDC, symptoms associated with the Zika virus last between seven to 10 days.

**CDC recommends that women who are pregnant or thinking of becoming pregnant postpone travel to areas with widespread Zika infection. Florida's small case cluster is not considered widespread transmission.** According to CDC guidance, providers should consider testing all pregnant women with a history of travel to a Zika affected area for the virus. CDC recommends that a pregnant woman with a history of Zika virus and her provider should consider additional ultrasounds.

Florida has been monitoring pregnant women with evidence of Zika regardless of symptoms since January. **The total number of pregnant women who have been monitored is 55, with 18 having met the previous CDC case definition.**

The Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists and CDC released a new case definition for Zika that now includes reporting both asymptomatic and symptomatic cases of Zika. Prior to this change, states reported only symptomatic non-pregnant cases and pregnant cases regardless of symptoms. This change comes as a result of increased availability for

testing in commercial laboratories.

<b>County</b>	<b>Number of Cases (all travel related)</b>
Alachua	5
Brevard	8
Broward	55
Charlotte	1
Citrus	2
Clay	3
Collier	4
Duval	6
Escambia	2
Highlands	1
Hillsborough	10
Lake	1
Lee	6
Manatee	1
Martin	1
Miami-Dade	99
Okaloosa	2
Okeechobee	1
Orange	40
Osceola	18
Palm Beach	18
Pasco	6
Pinellas	7
Polk	12
Santa Rosa	1
Seminole	12
St. Johns	3
St. Lucie	1
Volusia	5
<b>Total cases not involving pregnant women</b>	<b>331</b>

<b>Cases involving pregnant women regardless of symptoms*</b>	<b>55</b>
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\*Counties of pregnant women will not be shared.

On Feb. 12, Governor Scott directed the State Surgeon General to activate a Zika Virus Information Hotline for current Florida residents and visitors, as well as anyone planning on traveling to Florida in the near future. The hotline, managed by the Department of Health, has assisted 2,421 callers since it launched. The number for the Zika Virus Information Hotline is **1-855-622-6735**.

The department urges Floridians to drain standing water weekly, no matter how seemingly small. A couple drops of water in a bottle cap can be a breeding location for mosquitoes. Residents and visitors also need to use repellents when enjoying the Florida outdoors.

### **More Information on DOH action on Zika:**

- On Feb. 3, Governor Scott directed the State Surgeon General to issue a Declaration of Public Health Emergency for the counties of residents with travel-associated cases of Zika.
  - There have been 29 counties included in the declaration— Alachua, Brevard, Broward, Charlotte, Citrus, Clay, Collier, Duval, Escambia, Highlands, Hillsborough, Lake, Lee, Manatee, Martin, Miami-Dade, Okaloosa, Okeechobee, Orange, Osceola, Palm Beach, Pasco, Pinellas, Polk, Santa Rosa, Seminole, St. Johns, St. Lucie and Volusia – and will be updated as needed.
- DOH encourages Florida residents and visitors to protect themselves from all mosquito-borne illnesses by draining standing water; covering their clothing and bare skin with repellent; and covering windows with screens.
- DOH has a robust mosquito-borne illness surveillance system and is working with CDC, the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and local county mosquito control boards to ensure that the proper precautions are being taken to protect Florida residents and visitors.
- On April 6, Governor Scott and Interim State Surgeon General Dr. Celeste Philip hosted a conference call with Florida Mosquito Control Districts to discuss ongoing preparations to fight the possible spread of the Zika virus in Florida. There were 74 attendees on the call.
- On May 11, Governor Scott met with federal leaders on the importance of preparing for Zika as we would a hurricane. Governor Scott requested 5,000 Zika preparedness kits from HHS Secretary Sylvia Burwell as well as a plan from FEMA on how resources will be allocated to states in the event an emergency is declared.
- On June 1, Governor Scott requested for President Obama to provide preparedness items needed in order to increase Florida's capacity to be ready when Zika becomes mosquito-borne in our state.
- On June 9, Governor Scott spoke with Health and Human Services Secretary Sylvia Burwell and CDC Director Dr. Tom Frieden on Zika preparedness and reiterated the requests that he has continued to make to the federal government to prepare for the Zika virus once it becomes mosquito-borne in Florida. Governor Scott also requested that the CDC provide an additional 1,300 Zika antibody tests to Florida to allow individuals, especially pregnant women and new mothers, to see if they ever had the Zika virus.
- On June 23, Governor Scott announced that he will use his emergency executive authority to allocate \$26.2 million in state funds for Zika preparedness, prevention and response in Florida.
- On June 28, the department announced the first confirmed case of microcephaly in an infant born in Florida whose mother had a travel-related case of Zika. The mother of the infant contracted Zika while in Haiti. Following the confirmation of this case, Governor Scott called on CDC to host a call with Florida medical professionals, including OBGYNs and physicians specializing in family medicine, to discuss the neurological impacts of Zika and what precautions new and expecting mothers should take.
- On July 1, CDC hosted a call with Florida medical professionals, including OB/GYNs, pediatricians and physicians specializing in family medicine, to discuss the neurological impacts of Zika and what precautions new and expecting mothers should take. More than 120 clinicians participated.
- Florida currently has the capacity to test 6,609 people for active Zika virus and 2,059 for Zika antibodies.

### **Federal Guidance on Zika:**

- According to CDC, Zika illness is generally mild with a rash, fever and joint pain. CDC researchers have concluded that Zika virus is a cause of microcephaly and other birth defects.
- The FDA released guidance regarding donor screening, deferral and product management to reduce the risk of transfusion-transmission of Zika virus. Additional information is available on the FDA website [here](#).
- CDC has put out [guidance](#) related to the sexual transmission of the Zika virus. This includes CDC recommendation that if you have traveled to a country with local transmission of Zika you should abstain from unprotected sex.



For more information on Zika virus, go to [http://www.floridahealth.gov/diseases-and-conditions/zika-virus/index.html?utm\\_source=flhealthIndex&utm\\_source=PR&PDF](http://www.floridahealth.gov/diseases-and-conditions/zika-virus/index.html?utm_source=flhealthIndex&utm_source=PR&PDF)

### About the Florida Department of Health

The department, nationally accredited by the [Public Health Accreditation Board](#), works to protect, promote and improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county and community efforts.

Follow us on Twitter at [@HealthyFla](#) and on [Facebook](#). For more information about the Florida Department of Health please visit [www.FloridaHealth.gov](http://www.FloridaHealth.gov).

# Memorandum



**Date:** July 29, 2016

**To:** Honorable Chairman Jean Monestime  
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

**From:** Carlos A. Gimenez  
Mayor 

**Subject:** Update on Mosquito Control Program In Response to Governor Rick Scott's  
Announcement of Two Locally-Acquired Cases of Zika in Miami-Dade County

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Earlier today, Florida Governor Rick Scott held a press conference where he announced that there are two (2) locally-acquired cases of the Zika Virus (Zika) in Miami-Dade County and two (2) in Broward County. This comes after the Florida Department of Health (FDOH), in conjunction with U.S. Centers for Disease Control, conducted a full epidemiological investigation of suspected Zika cases in both counties. The exact method of transmission is still not known at this time; however, the Governor and the FDOH have attributed the local cases to mosquito transmission. Let me emphasize that none of the mosquitoes trapped by Miami-Dade Mosquito Control – both inside and outside of the areas with confirmed cases of nontravel-related Zika – have tested positive for Zika. While Zika is most commonly transmitted through mosquito bites, the virus can also be spread through other means. There are a few cases in the United States of sexually transmitted Zika, including at least one (1) in Florida. On Thursday, July 28, 2016, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration halted blood donations in Miami-Dade and Broward counties, as a precaution until donations can be screened for Zika.

The Florida Department of Health also announced the area where they believe there is active transmission of Zika – a small area in Miami-Dade County, just north of downtown. The area is NW 5 Avenue to the west, US-1 to the east, NW/NE 38 Street to the north and NW/NE 20 Street to the south. When the department was first notified of suspected cases of locally transmitted Zika on July 22, 2016, the Department of Solid Waste Management's Mosquito Control inspectors were immediately deployed to this area and have remained in the area, providing daily inspections of and treatment for mosquito breeding sites and adult mosquito activity.

The Mosquito Control Section continues to be aggressive in its efforts to eliminate the breeding of the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito, which transmits Zika and other mosquito-borne illnesses. As of July 28, 2016, there are 98 confirmed travel-related cases of the illness in Miami-Dade County. Mosquito Control is working proactively through surveillance, monitoring and residential inspections to control mosquito larvae and eliminate adult mosquito populations. For Fiscal Year (FY) 2015-16 to date, the department has responded to 6,990 service requests for mosquito inspections and treatment. Additionally, the department has addressed 562 referrals from the FDOH of suspected and confirmed cases of travel-related Zika with a heightened response protocol.

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Announcement of Two Locally-Acquired Cases of Zika  
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The Department continues to implement its Zika Virus Action Plan 2016, which includes additional inspection/treatment resources and an aggressive and highly visible "Drain and Cover" public education and outreach program. The Department's staff of 12 inspectors is currently managing an average of 60 service requests per day. Additional contracted inspectors have been deployed to assist with inspections and pesticide application. These contracted services are scalable so that additional inspectors can be brought on board quickly in response to increased needs for inspection and spraying. Both County and contracted personnel will perform inspections and manual spraying, which are the most effective methods of controlling container breeding mosquitoes. In support of these efforts, the Department has received \$316,800.00 from the FDOH from June to August 2016 to provide mosquito control treatment to mitigate the spread of Zika. These funds augment the \$1.88 million FY 2015-16 approved Mosquito Control Section operating budget.

I remain committed to providing whatever resources are necessary to keep our 2.7 million residents and our visitors safe from Zika. Because our mosquito control efforts have been successful in the past, I am confident that Miami-Dade County is prepared to fight this, just like we have fought West Nile, Dengue Fever, and Chikungunya. Every Miami-Dade County resident must continue to do their part by draining standing water to prevent mosquito breeding and protecting themselves by using mosquito repellent and wearing long sleeves, pants and shoes when outside, particularly at dusk and dawn when *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes are most active.

c: Honorable Harvey Ruvlin, Clerk of the Board  
Abigail Price-Williams, County Attorney  
Office of the Mayor Senior Staff  
Paul Mauriello, Deputy Director, Waste Operations, Department of Solid Waste Management

## Zika Virus Prevention Kit:

Florida Health in Miami-Dade County will be providing Zika Virus Prevention Kits to Pregnant Woman. For more information, contact the **FDOH Miami-Dade Epidemiology Hotline 305-324-2400**.

Pictured below are the 5 items included in the Zika Virus prevention Kit.



### Bed net

- Keep mosquitoes out of your room day and night. If your room is not well screened, use this bed net when sleeping or resting.
- Mosquitoes can live indoors and will bite at any time, day or night.



### Standing water treatment tabs

- Use water treatment tabs to kill larvae in standing water around your house. Do not put them in water you drink.
- Always follow directions on the package.
- When used as directed, these tabs will not harm you or your pets (dogs and cats).



### Insect repellent

- Insect repellent will help keep mosquitoes from biting you.
- Use only an EPA-registered insect repellent.
- Always follow the directions on the bottle.
- Do not spray repellent on the skin under clothing.
- If you are also using sunscreen, apply sunscreen first and insect repellent second.
- When used as directed, these insect repellents are proven safe and effective even for pregnant and breastfeeding women.



### Permethrin spray

- Spray your clothing and gear with permethrin to help protect you from mosquito bites.
- Always follow the directions on the bottle. Reapply as directed.
- Do not spray permethrin on your skin.



### Condom

- During sex, it is possible to get Zika virus from a man who has Zika
- If you have sex (vaginal, anal, or oral) with a male partner, you should use condoms the right way every time.
- Follow directions on the box.
- Condoms can also help prevent HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases.

## Mosquito Control Social Media Messages

### Facebook

Miami-Dade County reminds residents to "Drain and Cover" as summer rains become more frequent. For more information on mosquito control, visit [www.miamidade.gov/mosquitoes](http://www.miamidade.gov/mosquitoes).

Kids can help prevent the spread of mosquito-borne diseases and be super heroes in their community. All they need to do is cover up and #SpilltheWater! Watch video to learn more.

<https://www.youtube.com/v/hcb1uhk87XY?autoplay=1>

Watch the video below to see how Miami-Dade Mosquito Control works to prevent mosquito breeding and the spread of mosquito-borne illnesses in our community: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dwzo-4kji6M>  
To learn how you can control the mosquito population at home, visit [www.miamidade.gov/mosquitoes](http://www.miamidade.gov/mosquitoes).

Mosquito control is a community-wide effort. In order to prevent mosquito breeding and the potential spread of mosquito-borne illnesses we need everyone in Miami-Dade County to do their part.

Applying the "Drain and Cover" principles is the most effective way to control the mosquito population at home. Some of the things you can do around your home or business to combat mosquitoes are:

- Drain all standing water that is found outdoors
- Rainwater found collecting in ornamental plants, especially bromeliads, should be flushed out with a hose frequently or treated with a safe larvicide
- Cover windows and doors with screens
- Wear long sleeves and pants to prevent bites
- Apply mosquito repellent when going outdoors

For more tips on how to #DrainAndCover, visit: <http://www.miamidade.gov/solidwaste/mosquito-control.asp>

#DoYouKnow why #mosquito bites itch and how to protect yourself from being bitten? Learn how to #FighttheBite from #Nemours (Eng) <http://goo.gl/tJSaKq> & (Sp) <http://goo.gl/Lbliw9>

Do you know all of the areas around your home that can potentially accumulate standing water and become a #mosquito breeding ground? If not, take a look at our Mosquito Control Webpage and look at the "Sources of Standing Water" diagram. From landscaping water runoff to your pet's water dish, you may be surprised where mosquitoes can breed.

To view and download a copy of the diagram for yourself, or to learn about other ways you can control the mosquito population at home, visit: <http://www.miamidade.gov/solidwaste/mosquito-control.asp>.

Rain is back in the forecast, and with it comes the chance that standing water will accumulate around your property. Please remember to DRAIN all standing water to prevent mosquito breeding and mosquito-borne illnesses!

For more information on how you can control the mosquito population from home, visit <http://www.miamidade.gov/solidwaste/mosquito-control.asp>.

## Twitter

**#DrainAndCover** to prevent **#mosquito** breeding & mosquito-borne illnesses. Info: <http://owl.li/BLxv302tUXb>

Do your part to prevent **#mosquito** breeding & mosquito-borne illnesses. **#DrainAndCover!** Info: <http://owl.li/IIVV302tUZP>

Summer is **#mosquito** season. Fight off the buzzing pests and enjoy your summer activities. Get **#DrainAndCover** tips: <http://owl.li/IIVV302tUZP>

After it rains, DRAIN standing water to prevent **#mosquito** breeding. Info: <http://owl.li/IIVV302tUZP>  
**#DrainAndCover**

Kids can help prevent spread of mosquito borne diseases & be super heroes! Watch to teach them how to **#SpillTheWater** <https://www.youtube.com/v/hcb1uhk87XY?autoplay=1>

Fight the bite! Apply **#mosquito** repellent when outdoors, esp. @ dawn & dusk, to prevent bites. Info: <http://owl.li/IIVV302tUZP>

You can help prevent mosquito breeding & mosquito-borne illnesses, even @ home. Info: <http://owl.li/IIVV302tUZP> **#DrainAndCover**

Rainy season = **#mosquito** season. DRAIN all standing rainwater at home to prevent mosquito breeding. <http://owl.li/IIVV302tUZP>

Fight the bite! Apply **#mosquito** repellent when outdoors, esp. @ dawn & dusk, to prevent bites. Info: <http://owl.li/IIVV302tUZP>

Are you planning to go out tonight? Be sure to apply **#mosquito** repellent to prevent bites! **#DrainAndCover** **#MiamiDade** <http://owl.li/IIVV302tUZP>

Watch this video and see how you can **#DrainAndCover** to prevent **#mosquito** breeding & mosquito-borne illnesses: <http://owl.li/WXnb302tVob>

# Florida Commissioner Adam H. Putnam Issues Mosquito Declaration

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Jul 29, 2016

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — In response to the continental United States' first locally acquired cases of Zika confirmed today, Florida Commissioner of Agriculture Adam H. Putnam issued a statewide mosquito declaration. This mosquito declaration initiates aggressive mosquito control efforts within a minimum 200-yard radius around a locally acquired case patient's home.

The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services has been testing mosquitoes from around the state at the Bronson Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory, and all samples have been negative for the Zika virus to date.

“We will continue to proactively work with federal, state and local officials to protect Floridians and visitors from Zika,” stated Florida Commissioner of Agriculture Adam H. Putnam. “Floridians can do their part by draining standing water surrounding their homes, as it can serve as breeding grounds for the mosquitoes that are capable of transmitting the virus.”

While the virus has been widespread in countries in South and Central America and the Caribbean, this declaration is consistent with Florida's proactive approach in combating Zika.

Florida's efforts, which are conducted by local mosquito control programs and supported by the expertise provided by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, include: eliminating larval habitats by emptying standing water, treating water-holding containers with long-lasting larvicide, providing outdoor residential and spatial insecticide treatments to reduce adult vectors, and conducting adult mosquito surveillance to evaluate the effectiveness of treatments.

While the Florida Department of Health is the lead agency in this public health crisis, the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services has been supporting statewide efforts by: providing technical assistance to mosquito control programs, monitoring mosquito control activities across the state, training pest control companies, distributing BG Sentinel traps used for surveillance throughout Florida, and equipping the Bronson Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory with the tools needed to test mosquitoes for the presence of Zika.

On February 2, 2016, the Florida Surgeon General declared a public health emergency in regards to the Zika virus. Floridians can assist in Zika-related response efforts by draining standing water and allowing officials who are conducting mosquito control efforts to access their property.

Access a copy of the [mosquito declaration](#) [  939.54 KB ].

For more information on the Zika virus, visit the Florida Department of Health's website at [FloridaHealth.gov](http://FloridaHealth.gov).

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

July 29, 2016

**CONTACT: GOVERNOR'S PRESS OFFICE**

(850) 717-9282

[media@eog.myflorida.com](mailto:media@eog.myflorida.com)

## **Gov. Scott: With Likely Mosquito-Borne Zika Cases, State Will Use Full Resources to Protect Floridians**

**ORLANDO, Fla.** – Today, Governor Rick Scott announced that the Florida Department of Health (DOH) has concluded that four cases of the Zika virus are likely mosquito-borne. DOH knows that the four cases are in Miami-Dade and Broward Counties. One of these cases involves a woman and the other three cases involve men. At this time, DOH believes that active transmissions of the Zika virus are occurring in one small area in Miami-Dade County, just north of downtown. The exact location is within the boundaries of the following area: NW 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue to the west, US 1 to the east, NW/NE 38<sup>th</sup> Street to the north and NW/NE 20<sup>th</sup> Street to the south. This area is about 1 square mile and a map is below to detail the area. This is currently the only area of the state where DOH is testing to see if there are local transmissions of Zika. They are all active Zika cases and have not exhibited symptoms to be admitted to the hospital.

Governor Scott said, "We learned today that four people in our state likely have the Zika virus as a result of a mosquito bite. All four of these people live in Miami-Dade and Broward Counties and the Florida Department of Health believes that active transmissions of this virus could be occurring in one small area in Miami. While no mosquitoes have tested positive for the Zika virus, DOH is aggressively testing people in this area to ensure there are no other cases. If you live in this area and want to be tested, I urge you to contact the county health department which stands ready to assist you.

"Since our first travel-related case in February, Florida has taken an aggressive approach and committed state and local resources to combat this virus. Just like with a hurricane, we have worked hard to stay ahead of the spread of Zika and prepare for the worst, even as we hope for the best. Now that Florida has become the first state to have a local transmission, likely through a mosquito, we will continue to put every resource available to fighting the spread of Zika in our state. Last month, I used my emergency executive authority to allocate \$26.2 million in state funds for Zika preparedness, prevention and response in Florida. I will continue to travel the state and speak with local leaders, ports and airports to ensure their needs are met. If it becomes clear more resources are needed, we will not hesitate to allocate them.

"We know this virus is most detrimental to expecting mothers. If you are pregnant or thinking of becoming pregnant and live in the impacted area, I urge you to contact your OB/GYN for guidance and to receive a Zika Prevention kit. I also ask every Floridian to take proper precautions by eliminating any standing water and wearing insect repellent.

“Following today’s news, I directed the Department of Health to immediately begin contracting with commercial pest control companies to increase spraying and mosquito abatement efforts in the impacted area. We know from our experience with successfully dealing with other mosquito-borne viruses in our state that through constant surveillance and immediate action that we will protect our families and visitors. We will continue this same approach as we work to combat the Zika virus in our state. Florida is an outdoors state with pristine beaches, award-winning state parks and world class fishing. We continue to welcome record visitors to Florida and will remind everyone in our state to take proper precautions and wear insect repellent.”

Governor Scott has directed DOH to activate the Joint Information Center (JIC) within the State Emergency Operations Center to ensure impacted areas have coordinated access to information and resources. As part of this effort, Governor Scott has directed DOH to contract with commercial pest control companies to enhance and expand mosquito mitigation and abatement, including increased spraying, in the impacted areas.

Governor Scott has also directed DOH to do the following response activities:

- Provide \$620,000 to OneBlood, the primary blood bank in the area, to establish appropriate blood screening. DOH will be working with FDA and blood establishments in Miami-Dade and Broward Counties to test each individual unit of blood collected. Additionally, statewide DOH will ensure safe blood for pregnant women by screening units from counties without Zika.
- Work with the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services to issue a Mosquito Declaration and ensure that Mosquito Control in the areas of concern have the resources they need to combat further local transmission. Miami-Dade and Broward County Mosquito Control Districts will receive \$1.28 million in state funds through December to combat Zika.
- Continue investigations in concert with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to ensure we learn all we can about Zika as an emerging disease.
- Coordinate with OB/GYNs and organizations that serve pregnant woman in the impacted area to distribute Zika prevention kits to pregnant women.
- Ongoing door-to-door outreach in the areas of concern with continued mosquito mitigation activities and repellent distribution.
- Partner with VISIT FLORIDA to distribute educational items, repellent and Zika Prevention Kits for pregnant women to visitor centers in the impacted areas.
- Partner with the Florida Department of Education to ensure that mosquito breeding source reduction and mitigation activities have occurred at all schools in Miami-Dade and Broward counties ahead of children returning to classes this fall.

Commissioner of Agriculture and Consumer Services Adam H. Putnam said, “We are dedicated to protecting Floridians and visitors from Zika and will continue to support mosquito control programs throughout Florida with their surveillance and control efforts. Floridians can do their part by draining standing water surrounding their homes, as it can serve as breeding grounds for the mosquitoes that are capable of transmitting the virus.”

Florida Surgeon General Dr. Celeste Philip said, “As with most emerging health threats, we learn more about Zika each day but we recognize that the unknown can be scary especially for pregnant women. We’re committed to sharing as much as we can as soon as we can. Our top priority is the safety and well-

being of all people in Florida and a big part of that is being accessible. If you have questions, please call the Zika hotline at [1-855-622-6735](tel:1-855-622-6735).”



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