STATE OF FLORIDA

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER 16-29

(Governor Scott Directs Public Health Emergency in Four Counties for Zika Virus)

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization declared a Public Health Emergency of International Concern related to the Zika virus on February 1, 2016; and

WHEREAS, there have been nine confirmed travel-related cases of the Zika virus in Florida (none of which have been pregnant women) in Miami-Dade, Hillsborough, Lee, and Santa Rosa Counties; and

WHEREAS, the Zika virus is transmitted by a bite from an infected Aedes mosquito and other transmittal methods are still being determined; and

WHEREAS, the Zika virus has been associated with microcephaly and neurological disorders including Guillain- Barré Syndrome; and

WHEREAS, instances of microcephaly and neurological disorders have been diagnosed in infants and are believed to have been contracted in utero as a result of the mother being bitten by an infected Aedes mosquito; and

WHEREAS, although Florida's current nine Zika cases were travel-related, Aedes mosquitos are common in Florida; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary and appropriate to take action to ensure that the Zika virus remains controlled, and that residents of Florida remain safe and healthy.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RICK SCOTT, as Governor of Florida, by virtue of the authority vested in me by Article IV, Section 1(a) of the Florida Constitution and by the Public Health Act, and all other applicable laws, promulgate the following Executive Order, to take immediate effect:

Section 1. Because of the foregoing conditions, I direct the State Health Officer and Surgeon General, Dr. John Armstrong, to declare a public health emergency in Miami-Dade, Hillsborough, Lee, and Santa Rosa Counties, pursuant to its authority in section 381.00315, Florida Statutes. The State Health Officer is authorized and directed to use his judgment as to the duration and the geographical boundaries of this public health emergency.

Section 2. In accordance with section 381.0011(7), Florida Statutes, I direct the State Health Officer to take any action necessary to protect the public health. Further, I direct the State Health Officer to immediately notify the Commissioner of Agriculture of this threat to public health pursuant to section 388.45, Florida Statutes. Furthermore, this statute authorizes the Commissioner of Agriculture to issue a mosquito declaration in Miami-Dade, Hillsborough, Lee and Santa Rosa Counties. Special attention shall be paid to residential areas, as CDC guidance indicates that backpack mosquito spray measures may be most effective.

Section 3. The State Health Officer is directed to follow the guidelines established by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ("CDC") in establishing protocols to control the spread of the Zika virus and educate the public on prevention.

Section 4. In accordance with section 381.0011(7), Florida Statutes, I designate the Florida Department of Health as the lead state agency to coordinate emergency response activities among the various state agencies and local governments. The State Health Officer, or his designee, shall advise the Executive Office of the Governor on the implementation of these emergency response activities.

Section 5. All actions taken by the State Health Officer with respect to this emergency before the issuance of this Executive Order are ratified.

Section 6. I hereby direct the Florida Department of Health to make its own determinations as to further resources and information needed in the State from the CDC to combat the spread of Zika and other measures that may need to be taken to protect public health.

Section 7. I hereby direct the Department of Environmental Protection and the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission to support the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services in any way as it develops extensive mosquito control plans to contain the spread of this illness in partnership with Florida's counties, cities, and mosquito control districts.

Section 8. All agencies under the direction of the Governor are directed to fully cooperate with the Florida Department of Health, and any representative thereof in the furtherance of this Order. Agencies not under the direction of the Governor are requested to provide such assistance as is required.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Florida to be affixed, at Tallahassee, this 3rd day of February, 2016.

GOVERNOR

ATTEST:

SECRETARY OF STATE

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA