



HHS Assistance to Puerto Rico to Fight Zika - Fact Sheet

Zika Virus in Puerto Rico

As of 06/15/16, there were 1,389 laboratory-confirmed cases of Zika in Puerto Rico.

Preventing Zika Virus Infections

Improving Awareness of Zika Virus in Puerto Rico

- Forty billboards in Puerto Rico now have Zika messaging, and health education materials continue to be distributed at pharmacies, hotels, and other key locations.
- CDC is preparing an education outreach campaign in Puerto Rico and has developed general information on larvicides available for use commercially.
- CDC led a Zika Facebook chat on 05/19/16 with Puerto Rico Department of Health (PRDOH), Puerto Rico WIC Program, Government 3-1-1 Service Line, and State Emergency Management and Disaster Administration Agency.

Distributing Zika Prevention Kits

- In conjunction with PRDOH, CDC has distributed nearly 9,750 Zika Prevention Kits in Puerto Rico through Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) clinics and obstetrician/gynecologist offices. Included in these kits are CDC educational materials, topical insect repellent, condoms to avoid potential sexual transmission of Zika, and mosquito dunks to reduce mosquito populations in standing water.

Reducing Mosquito Populations

Working with Puerto Rico, CDC is spraying in and around the homes of pregnant women: As of 05/24/16, 2,159 residences have been sprayed. Of 92 WIC clinics in Puerto Rico, 76 have been sprayed. CDC is working with Puerto Rico to deploy effective mosquito traps in conjunction with launching a pilot project in Caguas. While waiting for the traps to arrive, CDC is conducting focus groups on trap acceptance in the community and is organizing implementation of the pilot. CDC also continues to work with satellite imagery and mobile applications to identify standing water or containers that can hold water and to assist in the placement and maintenance of mosquito traps in Puerto Rico. EPA granted emergency approval for use of KO Tabs (insecticide) and PermaNet Curtains in Puerto Rico, which are additional mosquito control tools.

Increasing Funding and Assistance to Puerto Rico Health Clinics

- In April, HHS provided \$5 million in one-time supplemental grants to 20 health centers in Puerto Rico to rapidly strengthen the response to Zika virus in Puerto Rico. The 20 health centers and their 84 service delivery sites in Puerto Rico serve over 330,000 people, including nearly 80,000 women age 15 to 45. These grants will support increased outreach, patient education, screening, treatment services, and voluntary family planning services – including contraceptive services. Services provided include: prenatal care to more than 3,300 pregnant women, delivery of more than 2,000 babies, and contraceptive services to more than 16,600 people annually. Health centers will be reporting quarterly on measures, including the number of patients with an encounter for contraceptive management services and the number of Zika diagnostic tests performed (including percentage positive, if applicable).
- In April, HHS awarded \$300,000 in one-time emergency supplemental funding to its two Title X grantees in Puerto Rico (University of Puerto Rico and PROFAMILIAS) to conduct additional outreach in underserved areas. The two grantees support 15 health clinics in Puerto Rico.



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Improving Ability to Detect and Respond to Zika

Increasing CDC Staff in Puerto Rico

As of 06/01/16, CDC has deployed 158 CDC staff to Puerto Rico to supplement over twenty CDC staffers that work full-time in Puerto Rico at the CDC Dengue Branch office in San Juan. The additional CDC staff work with Puerto Rico to increase lab testing capacity and work with PRDOH to control mosquito populations.

CDC Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity (ELC) Funding

CDC obligated \$3.7 million through the Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity for Infectious Diseases Cooperative Agreement to PRDOH to combat the current outbreak of Zika virus. In addition to equipment and supplies necessary for the increased testing for Zika virus, funds awarded to PRDOH will be used to support additional epidemiology and laboratory staff critical to the response efforts.

Expanding Diagnostic Testing Capacity

CDC continues to work with PRDOH to augment testing capacity for active and recent Zika virus infections. CDC has also provided support for testing through its Dengue Branch Laboratory in the form of training, technical support, and overflow testing. The Dengue Branch Laboratory staff has also been augmented with seven microbiologists.

Keeping the Blood Supply Free of Zika Virus

Routine blood screening in Puerto Rico has been ongoing since 04/03/16 using an investigational test developed by Roche Molecular Systems, Inc. The screening test is being used under an investigational new drug application approved by the Food and Drug Administration. Before blood screening technology was available and in place, HHS arranged and funded shipments of blood products from the continental U.S. to Puerto Rico to ensure an adequate supply of safe blood for island residents.

Improving Access to Contraception

CDC is collaborating with partners in Puerto Rico, the CDC Foundation, HRSA, OPA, and many private partners to increase contraception access for women in Puerto Rico who want to delay or avoid pregnancy during this Zika virus outbreak. Through public-private partnerships CDC is building a network of physicians and clinics in Puerto Rico capable of providing women with comprehensive, client-centered contraceptive counseling and same-day access to the full range of contraceptive methods at no charge to ensure that women who want to delay or avoid pregnancy are able to do so.

High Level HHS Engagement

On April 26-27, 2016, Secretary Burwell made her first official visit to Puerto Rico as HHS Secretary. CDC Director Tom Frieden most recently visited Puerto Rico on 06/10/16.