

June 16, 2014

From: Brenda Rivera, DVM, MPH  
Territorial Epidemiologist  
Puerto Rico Department of Health  
San Juan, Puerto Rico

To: Lyle Petersen, MD, MPH  
Director  
Division of Vector-Borne Diseases (NCEZID)  
Atlanta, GA

Dear Dr. Petersen:

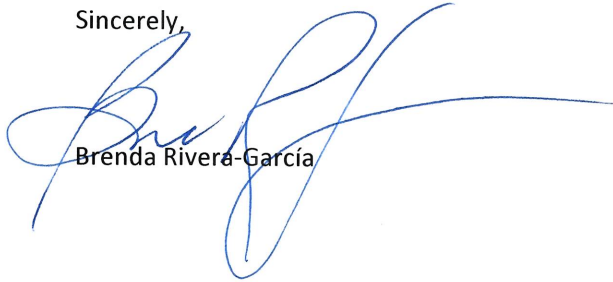
The Puerto Rico Department of Health (PRDOH) would like to request assistance from the National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases', Division of Vector-Borne Diseases, to conduct a Chikungunya virus investigation. May 29<sup>th</sup> the PRDOH announced the first autochthonous Chikungunya case; since then, an increasing number of Chikungunya laboratory confirmed have been reported. PRDOH has already initiated surveillance for chikungunya in Puerto Rico, including performing house-to-house case-finding in the 200 meters around the homes of laboratory-confirmed chikgunya cases. Assistance from the CDC would support the PRDOH's efforts as it moves forward with establishing sentinel chikgunya surveillance in Puerto Rico, conducting household investigations, as well as continuing to improve public awareness and prevention messaging. The Department's goals are to:

- 1) Conduct household investigations around the case-patients' homes for:
  - a) detection of chikungunya cases otherwise not detected by passive surveillance
  - b) identification of infected individuals' health care-seeking behaviors
  - c) description of clinical spectrum of disease across age groups for our population
  - d) estimation of the level of DENV circulation in areas with known CHIKV transmission
  - e) entomologic surveillance to determine vector density and frequency with which adult mosquitoes are infected with DENV and/or CHIKV
  - f) identification of household and individual risk factors for infection with CHIKV.
- 2) Establish sentinel chikungunya surveillance sites.
- 3) Provide messaging, alerts and educational material for clinicians and the public
- 4) Provide recommendations on vector surveillance and control mechanisms to monitor and mitigate the mosquito vectors that transmit CHIKV.
- 5) Conduct a rapid assessment of hospital needs to ensure availability of necessary medications (IV fluids, pain medication, antipyretics, etc.)

The Department of Health will provide support and assistance with this investigation. Enhanced surveillance is expected to be performed for the duration of the chikungunya outbreak, and household investigations are expected to be conducted for roughly the first four weeks of the outbreak. The information gained from this

investigation will be used to educate the public, clinicians, and public health professionals on approaches to reduce the morbidity and hospital-associated burden of chikungunya in Puerto Rico.

Sincerely,



Brenda Rivera-García