



GOVERNMENT OF
THE VIRGIN ISLANDS OF THE UNITED STATES

VIRGIN ISLANDS DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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June 10, 2014

Marc Fischer, MD, MPH
Surveillance and Epidemiology Activity Chief
Division of Vector-Borne Diseases, Arboviral Branch
National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Fort Collins, CO

Dear Dr. Fischer:

I am requesting an Epi-Aid to assist with mitigation of an outbreak of Chikungunya in the territory of the U.S. Virgin Islands. Chikungunya is a new disease in our region and there is no immunity among our population. The confirmation of a locally acquired case on June 10, 2014 on the island of St. Thomas is a major concern for us as it poses a significant threat for our public health and healthcare systems. We suspect that there may be other cases that have not yet been diagnosed and we expect the number of cases to increase rapidly due to the high attack rate of this disease.

Additionally, as we are at the beginning of the hurricane season, where we generally receive a significant amount of rainfall associated with passing tropical systems. Thus, the potential for increased mosquito activity is higher than at other times of the year. We request assistance to strengthen surveillance and diagnostic capacity, education of healthcare providers and the general public, and support vector control and mitigation efforts.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Darice Plaskett, RN, MS, FACHE
Commissioner