

## **Bisgard, Kris (CDC/OPHSS/CSELS)**

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**From:** Gaul,Linda (DSHS) <Linda.Gaul@dshs.state.tx.us>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 02, 2014 2:16 PM  
**To:** Jentes, Emily S. (CDC/OID/NCEZID); Esposito, Douglas H. (CDC/OID/NCEZID)  
**Cc:** Sharp, Tyler M. (CDC/OID/NCEZID); Sotir, Mark (CDC/OID/NCEZID)  
**Subject:** Request for Epi-Aid to address potential chikungunya and dengue infections among caribbean travelers

Gary Brunette, MD, MS  
Chief, Travelers' Health Branch  
Division of Global Migration and Quarantine  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Dear Dr. Brunette:

The Texas Department of State Health Services requests CDC assistance in the form of an Epi-Aid with investigation of chikungunya and dengue virus infections associated with humanitarian aid travel to the Dominican Republic during an ongoing outbreak of chikungunya. At the time of this request, 5 suspected cases of chikungunya have been reported in the supervisory staff of the US service organization based in Texas. Because of the ongoing chikungunya outbreak and cases of dengue in the DR, the service organization reported concern for the 147 volunteers and staff that are currently or will be serving in the DR this summer, especially because they typically stay in remote areas with local families in areas without consistent or regular vector control programs.

In particular, we seek CDC assistance with:

- Verifying the agent of infection (chikungunya virus [CHIKV] versus dengue virus [DENV]) among volunteers and staff of the service organization
- Determining the incidence of recently-acquired CHIKV and DENV infection, and consequent clinical illness
- Reviewing surveillance forms and logs routinely collected by the service organization for symptom onset and illness information
- Conducting a survey of volunteers and staff to evaluate risk factors for infection and effective prevention behaviors during service
- Recommending prevention and control measures for CHIKV and DENV infection to prevent future infections among volunteers and staff

The Division of Global Migration and Quarantine (DGMQ) is identifying an EIS officer that would be able to assist with this investigation. In addition, we welcome the assistance, coordination, and oversight of this investigation by DGMQ, and are happy to work with other EIS Officers as indicated.

Please contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

[Linda Gaul](#)

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