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DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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American Samoa Government
Pago Pago, American Samoa 96799



Public Health
Prevent, Promote, Protect
American Samoa
Department of Health

MOTUSA T. NUA
Director

FARAITOFA M. UTU
Deputy Director

February 2, 2016

Tom Frieden, MD, MPH
Director
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
1600 Clifton Rd, NE
Atlanta, GA 30329

Dear Dr. Frieden,

American Samoa has been experiencing an increase number of people presenting themselves at either the LBJ Tropical Medical Center Emergency Department or the Public Health Community Health Centers with Zika like symptoms such as rash, fever, joint pains and redness and pain in the eyes.

Surveillance results from both hospital and CHC have supported the assumption that the Zika virus is a probable occurrence in the territory. To date the CHC has seen 30 plus patients and the LBJ Emergency Department has seen 88 plus patients that show signs and symptoms that are aligned with the ZIKA case definition. Medical data show the numbers continuing to climb.

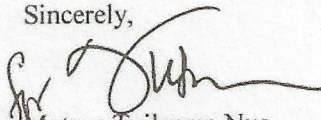
The American Samoa Department of Health is requesting federal assistance in the following areas:

1. Risk Communications: SME will assist with message templates, translation and proper media coverage
2. Epi Aid: SME will provide guidance in and support with investigative procedures that are currently being used by the Public Health and hospital.

This support would assist in ensuring that preventive measures and messages are adequately being conveyed to the community and to ultimately reduce disease transmission in American Samoa.

The concern is also directed to probable imported cases from our neighboring islands such as Tongan and the Independent State of Samoa; both have confirmed cases. These countries exchange a high number of frequent travelers throughout the year with American Samoa.

Sincerely,


Motusa Tuileama Nua
Director of Health

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Healthy Families ~ Healthy Communities ~ Healthy American Samoa