

January 29, 2016  
From: Brenda Rivera-Garcia, DVM, MPH  
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2/1/16*

To: Thomas Frieden, MD, MPH  
Director  
U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
Atlanta, GA

Esteemed doctor Frieden,

The Puerto Rico Department of Health (PRDOH) would like to request assistance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to respond to the Zika virus outbreak in Puerto Rico. In December 2015, PRDOH confirmed the first locally-acquired Zika case in Puerto Rico. To date, a total of 21 cases have been reported. It is anticipated that additional cases will occur in the coming weeks and months. Due to reports from multiple countries of microcephaly occurring in the babies of mothers infected with Zika virus as well as increases in incidence of Guillain Barré Syndrome, there is substantial need to improve public health surveillance for such conditions, conduct field investigations to define the role of Zika virus in these conditions, and organize a comprehensive response to the outbreak.

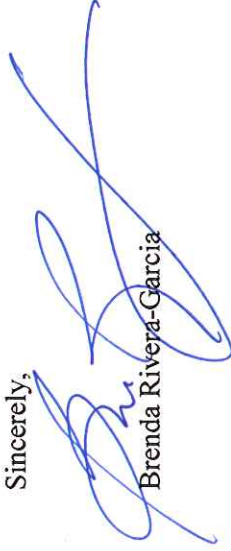
The areas in which PRDOH is requesting assistance from CDC include, but are not limited to, are:

1. Implementing a high impact, sustainable mosquito vector control program;
2. Improving surveillance for Zika-like illness, particularly in pregnant women;
3. Conducting a study to determine the association of Zika virus infection and development of microcephaly in women in Puerto Rico;
4. Establishing a surveillance system for Guillain Barre syndrome;
5. Conducting a study to determine the association of Zika virus infection and development of Guillain Barre Syndrome in Puerto Rico;
6. Guidance on public messaging and additional aspects of outbreak response management.

As the response to the Zika outbreak continues in Puerto Rico over the coming weeks and months, it is expected that additional needs will continue to be identified. Therefore, this letter should serve as an invitation for support of PRDOH by CDC throughout the duration of the outbreak.

PRDOH will provide support and assistance with this investigation.

Sincerely,



Brenda Rivera-Garcia

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