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Letter nº 02

Dr. Lyle Petersen  
Director, Division of Vector-borne Disease  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
3156 Rampart Road  
Fort Collins, CO 80521

Dear Dr. Petersen,


I am writing to request your kind consideration for the provision of epidemiologic support for an investigation into an outbreak of microcephaly cases in newborns that has occurred in several states of Brazil since October, 2015.

CDC and the Brazilian Ministry of Health have been collaborating closely to better understand the cause of over 4,000 suspect cases of microcephaly and their possible association with Zika virus. As part of this effort, our organizations have designed a case-control study aimed at estimating the proportion of infants with microcephaly who have evidence of congenital Zika virus infection; the relative risk of microcephaly associated with Zika virus infection; and the attributable risk of microcephaly explained by Zika virus infection; in addition to describing clinical characteristics and current outcome of children with microcephaly that is associated with Zika virus infection. As such, we would appreciate CDC provision of field support for investigation of this unusual cluster, including assistance with medical chart review, evaluation, characterization and further understanding of these cases; characterization of potential exposures, and collection of biological samples.

The Brazilian Ministry of Health is able to provide ancillary support in the form of local epidemiology teams and data entry personnel. Unfortunately, neither the Ministry of Health nor the CDC Brazil Country Office will be able to cover the costs of travel or consultation fees, though we will assist with in-country costs to the extent possible. For any additional information, please contact Priscila Leite at [priscila.leite@saude.gov.br](mailto:priscila.leite@saude.gov.br). The point of contact in the CDC-Brazil Country Office is Dr. Aristides Barbosa, Country Director, at [guq5@cdc.gov](mailto:guq5@cdc.gov).

Thank you for your consideration of this request. Please do not hesitate to contact me should there be questions or issues that you would like to discuss further.

Thank you and best regards,

  
Giovanini Evelim Coelho  
Director  
National Dengue Control Program