



MINISTÉRIO DA SAÚDE
SECRETARIA DE VIGILÂNCIA EM SAÚDE
Esplanada dos Ministérios, Edifício Sede, 1º andar, Ala Norte
70.058-900 Brasília-DF
Tel. 3315 2755/2812

January 8th, 2016

Dr. Inger Damon

Director

Division of High-Consequence Pathogens and Pathology

National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Ph: +1 404-639-4931

E-mail: IDamon@cdc.gov

Dear Dr Damon,

I am writing to request your kind consideration for the provision of clinical and epidemiologic support for an investigation into an outbreak of unexplained neurologic illness that has occurred in several states in Brazil in the spring and summer of 2015; currently, there is a strong suspicion that most of these cases represent Guillain-Barre syndrome (GBS), and temporal and laboratory findings to date lead us to suspect that there may be an association between these GBS cases and Zika virus, which was recognized to emerge in Brazil in December 2014. Currently the two largest clusters of suspected GBS have occurred in the states of Pernambuco (22 cases) and Bahia (57 cases); given the number of these cases occurring in such close temporal and geographic proximity, we find the cluster of these cases of neurologic illnesses very concerning.

We are writing to request field support to assist us in investigating this unusual cluster. The objectives of this request would be:

1. To assist with clinical evaluation, characterization, and further understanding of these cases
2. To characterize potential exposures
3. To assist in collection of high-quality and well-characterized biological specimens

4. And, as appropriate, implement mitigation measures to prevent or limit the impact of further case

To ensure that this investigation / exercise is successful, fruitful, and yields good results, we are able to provide additional ancillary support in the form of additional local epidemiology support, and data entry personnel, in order to ensure that there is adequate additional manpower to ensure a successful investigation. Additional epidemiologic and laboratory support may also be brought in as deemed necessary by the assembled field team. We feel that the provision of subject matter experts in the fields of neuroepidemiology, medical epidemiology, and arbovirology would be extremely helpful to focus this investigation.

Unfortunately, neither the Ministry of Health nor the CDC-Brazil Country Office will be able to pay for trip expenses or consultative fees, though we can try to assist with in-country costs to the extent possible. For any additional information please contact Priscila Leite at +55 61 3213 8006 or priscila.leite@saude.gov.br. The point of contact in the CDC-Brazil Country Office is Ms Myrian Carvalho, +55 61 3212 0700 or mcarvalho1@cdc.gov.

Thank you for your kind consideration of this request. If there are any questions, queries, or anything that I can try to clarify, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Thank you, and best regards,



Dr Claudio Maierovitch
Director

Department of Infectious Disease Surveillance