



November 4, 2016

Dominic Mancini  
Deputy Director  
Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs  
Office of Management and Budget  
Washington, DC

Subject: Request for Emergency Review and Clearance

Dear Mr. Mancini:

Pursuant to Office of Management and Budget (OMB) procedures established at 5 CFR Part 1320, *Controlling Paperwork Burdens on the Public*, I request that the proposed information collection project, "Assessment of Zika Prevention Strategies in the U.S. Virgin Islands" be processed in accordance with section 1320.13, Emergency Processing.

I have determined that this information must be collected prior to the expiration of time periods established under Part 1320, and that this information is essential to the CDC's emergency Zika response in the U.S. Virgin Islands. The overarching goal of this particular project is to engage key audiences in the U.S. Virgin Islands via in-person intercept interviews regarding a variety of Zika prevention activities (personal protective behaviors and vector control activities) in order to assess the current situation and to inform future action. Information collected in this assessment will be used to help refine communication and vector control plans and guide implementation of activities defined in those plans in order to prevent and control Zika virus in the U.S. Virgin Islands.

CDC cannot reasonably comply with the normal clearance procedures because as of October 26, 2016, the U.S. Virgin Islands has reported 1,425 cases of Zika with 575 laboratory-confirmed cases. Sixty-one of these cases are among pregnant women. Because Zika is an emerging arboviral disease and a sexually transmitted disease that is known to cause microcephaly and other serious birth defects in babies if a pregnant woman is infected during her pregnancy, an urgent assessment of individuals' Zika prevention strategies is urgently needed to inform the ongoing response in the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Recently, the U.S. Virgin Islands has seen a large jump in cases. Response leaders at the U.S. Virgin Islands Department of Health and CDC have asked the behavioral science team to do a comprehensive assessment of different facets of the response among several audiences in order to help understand the current situation and to inform next steps. Specifically, draft communication plans and vector control plans need to be shaped by a good understanding of several audiences' perspectives on Zika prevention behaviors and vector control activities. The behavioral science team will gather insights from pregnant women and community members. The insights will support refinement and implementation of the communication and vector control plan.

Therefore, CDC requests a 90-day emergency clearance to carry out this assessment.

Please provide an approval/disapproval determination of this request to collect information under an emergency clearance by close of business November 7, 2016.

Respectfully,



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Beth P. Bell, MD, MPH  
Director, National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic  
Infectious Diseases (NCEZID), Centers for Disease  
Control and Prevention (CDC)