

Memorandum



Date: July 29, 2016

To: Honorable Chairman Jean Monestime
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

From: Carlos A. Gimenez
Mayor 

Subject: Update on Mosquito Control Program In Response to Governor Rick Scott's
Announcement of Two Locally-Acquired Cases of Zika in Miami-Dade County

Earlier today, Florida Governor Rick Scott held a press conference where he announced that there are two (2) locally-acquired cases of the Zika Virus (Zika) in Miami-Dade County and two (2) in Broward County. This comes after the Florida Department of Health (FDOH), in conjunction with U.S. Centers for Disease Control, conducted a full epidemiological investigation of suspected Zika cases in both counties. The exact method of transmission is still not known at this time; however, the Governor and the FDOH have attributed the local cases to mosquito transmission. Let me emphasize that **none** of the mosquitoes trapped by Miami-Dade Mosquito Control -- both inside and outside of the areas with confirmed cases of nontravel-related Zika -- have tested positive for Zika. While Zika is most commonly transmitted through mosquito bites, the virus can also be spread through other means. There are a few cases in the United States of sexually transmitted Zika, including at least one (1) in Florida. On Thursday, July 28, 2016, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration halted blood donations in Miami-Dade and Broward counties, as a precaution until donations can be screened for Zika.

The Florida Department of Health also announced the area where they believe there is active transmission of Zika -- a small area in Miami-Dade County, just north of downtown. The area is NW 5 Avenue to the west, US-1 to the east, NW/NE 38 Street to the north and NW/NE 20 Street to the south. When the department was first notified of suspected cases of locally transmitted Zika on July 22, 2016, the Department of Solid Waste Management's Mosquito Control inspectors were immediately deployed to this area and have remained in the area, providing daily inspections of and treatment for mosquito breeding sites and adult mosquito activity.

The Mosquito Control Section continues to be aggressive in its efforts to eliminate the breeding of the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito, which transmits Zika and other mosquito-borne illnesses. As of July 28, 2016, there are 99 confirmed travel-related cases of the illness in Miami-Dade County. Mosquito Control is working proactively through surveillance, monitoring and residential inspections to control mosquito larvae and eliminate adult mosquito populations. For Fiscal Year (FY) 2015-16 to date, the department has responded to 6,990 service requests for mosquito inspections and treatment. Additionally, the department has addressed 562 referrals from the FDOH of suspected and confirmed cases of travel-related Zika with a heightened response protocol.

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The Department continues to implement its Zika Virus Action Plan 2016, which includes additional inspection/treatment resources and an aggressive and highly visible "Drain and Cover" public education and outreach program. The Department's staff of 12 inspectors is currently managing an average of 60 service requests per day. Additional contracted inspectors have been deployed to assist with inspections and pesticide application. These contracted services are scalable so that additional inspectors can be brought on board quickly in response to increased needs for inspection and spraying. Both County and contracted personnel will perform inspections and manual spraying, which are the most effective methods of controlling container breeding mosquitoes. In support of these efforts, the Department has received \$316,800.00 from the FDOH from June to August 2016 to provide mosquito control treatment to mitigate the spread of Zika. These funds augment the \$1.68 million FY 2015-16 approved Mosquito Control Section operating budget.

I remain committed to providing whatever resources are necessary to keep our 2.7 million residents and our visitors safe from Zika. Because our mosquito control efforts have been successful in the past, I am confident that Miami-Dade County is prepared to fight this, just like we have fought West Nile, Dengue Fever, and Chikungunya. Every Miami-Dade County resident must continue to do their part by draining standing water to prevent mosquito breeding and protecting themselves by using mosquito repellent and wearing long sleeves, pants and shoes when outside, particularly at dusk and dawn when *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes are most active.

c: Honorable Harvey Ruvlin, Clerk of the Board
Abigail Price-Williams, County Attorney
Office of the Mayor Senior Staff
Paul Mauriello, Deputy Director, Waste Operations, Department of Solid Waste Management