

GOOD MORNING, EVERYONE.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, THE RAINY SEASON IS UPON US HERE IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY. AND AS YOUR MAYOR, I WANT US ALL TO BE PREPARED.

I'VE INVITED YOU HERE TODAY BECAUSE NOTHING IS MORE IMPORTANT TO ME THAN THE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF OUR COMMUNITY.

BUT AS I'VE SAID MANY TIMES BEFORE – IT TAKES ALL OF US TO PROTECT ALL OF US.

AND THAT'S WHY I'M HOSTING THIS PRESS CONFERENCE: TO LET OUR RESIDENTS KNOW WHAT THEY CAN DO TO KEEP US ALL SAFE FROM MOSQUITO-BORNE ILLNESSES.

AS YOU KNOW, THERE'S BEEN A LOT OF DISCUSSION ABOUT THE DANGERS OF ZIKA HERE IN MIAMI-DADE.

BUT I WANT TO REITERATE THAT THERE'S NO IMMEDIATE THREAT OF ZIKA IN OUR COMMUNITY.

AGAIN, MIAMI-DADE COUNTY DOES NOT HAVE AN IMMEDIATE THREAT OF ZIKA BEING ACQUIRED LOCALLY IN OUR COMMUNITY.

IN FACT, OF THE 44 CONFIRMED ZIKA CASES HERE IN MIAMI-DADE, NOT A SINGLE ONE HAS BEEN LOCALLY-ACQUIRED.

EVERY CASE HAS BEEN TRAVEL-RELATED, AND TRANSMITTED OUTSIDE OF THE UNITED STATES.

BUT EVEN THOUGH WE DON'T HAVE A ZIKA PROBLEM IN MIAMI-DADE, IT'S OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO BE PREPARED, AND TO DO EVERYTHING WE CAN TO PROTECT OUR COMMUNITY.

SO, I'M GOING TO TELL YOU WHAT YOUR COUNTY GOVERNMENT HAS DONE, AND WILL CONTINUE TO DO, TO PROTECT OUR COMMUNITY AGAINST THE SPREAD OF ZIKA.

FIRST, LET ME SAY THAT THERE ARE FEDERAL- AND STATE-LEVEL EFFORTS IN THE WORKS, AND I'VE BEEN PART OF THOSE DISCUSSIONS. IN FACT, I VISITED THE WHITE HOUSE A FEW WEEKS AGO TO MEET WITH OFFICIALS REGARDING THE ZIKA VIRUS.

I SUPPORT PRESIDENT OBAMA, SENATORS BILL NELSON AND MARCO RUBIO, AND GOVERNOR RICK SCOTT, AND THEIR EFFORTS TO CONTROL THE SPREAD OF ZIKA. AND I'LL CONTINUE TO PUSH FOR

ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR OUR COMMUNITY – SO THAT IF WE DO NEED MORE MONEY TO PROTECT AGAINST THE VIRUS, WE’RE READY.

WE DON’T EXPECT THAT TO HAPPEN, HOWEVER, BECAUSE AT MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, WE’RE IN THE BUSINESS OF BEING PREPARED, NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS IN WASHINGTON OR TALLAHASSEE.

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY HAS A DECADES-LONG HISTORY OF MOSQUITO CONTROL. AND I WANT TO THANK DEPUTY MAYOR ALINA HUDAK AND HER TEAM IN THE DIVISION OF MOSQUITO CONTROL FOR ALL THAT THEY CONTINUE TO DO TO KEEP OUR COMMUNITY SAFE.

IT’S IMPORTANT TO NOTE THAT WE’VE KEPT OUR COMMUNITY SAFE BECAUSE OUR PROGRAM IS DESIGNED TO BE PROACTIVE.

AS OUR MOSQUITO CONTROL OPERATIONS MANAGER, CHALMERS VASQUEZ, WILL DISCUSS IN MORE DETAIL A LITTLE LATER, WE DO RESPONSIBLE SURVEILLANCE AND MONITORING HERE IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, 365 DAYS PER YEAR.

WE DON’T SPRAY JUST TO SPRAY, FOLKS.

WE'RE PREVENTATIVE IN OUR APPROACH, AND WE USE SAFE METHODS TO PROTECT OUR ENVIRONMENT AND OUR RESIDENTS.

AND WE USE THIS APPROACH BECAUSE IT WORKS.

IN THE PAST, OUR COMMUNITY HAS FACED WEST NILE VIRUS, DENGUE FEVER AND CHIKUNGUNYA.

BECAUSE OUR MOSQUITO-CONTROL EFFORTS HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN THE PAST, I'M CONFIDENT THAT MIAMI-DADE COUNTY IS PREPARED TO FIGHT THE MOSQUITOES THAT ARE CAPABLE OF TRANSMITTING THE ZIKA VIRUS.

AND NOW, ALL OF US MIAMI-DADE COUNTY RESIDENTS NEED TO DO OUR PART. WE ALL NEED TO "DRAIN AND COVER."

THAT MESSAGE SHOULD BE FAMILIAR TO YOU BECAUSE IN LATE JANUARY, MIAMI-DADE COUNTY LAUNCHED AN AGGRESSIVE "DRAIN AND COVER" PUBLIC EDUCATION CAMPAIGN.

WE SPENT \$150,000 ON THAT CAMPAIGN, AND WE LAUNCHED IT IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH.

THIS IS ONE INVESTMENT WE'VE MADE TOWARDS EDUCATING OUR RESIDENTS. BUT I HAVE MADE CLEAR TO MY ADMINISTRATION THIS YEAR, AND IN ALL PREVIOUS YEARS I'VE BEEN MAYOR, THAT THIS GOVERNMENT WILL ALLOCATE WHATEVER FUNDING IS NECESSARY TO PROTECT OUR COMMUNITY AGAINST MOSQUITO-BORNE ILLNESSES.

WE HAVE FUNDS IN RESERVE AND WE WON'T HESITATE TO ALLOCATE THOSE FUNDS, SHOULD THE NEED ARISE.

AS YOU CAN SEE FROM THE "DRAIN AND COVER" CAMPAIGN MATERIALS WE HAVE HERE TODAY, THERE ARE SIMPLE THINGS THAT WE CAN ALL DO TO PREVENT MOSQUITO BREEDING AND MOSQUITO BITES IN MIAMI-DADE.

FOR EXAMPLE, INSPECT YOUR BACKYARDS AT LEAST ONCE A WEEK.

GET RID OF ANYTHING THAT HAS STANDING WATER – WHICH IS PRIME BREEDING GROUND FOR MOSQUITOES.

PROTECT YOURSELF AND YOUR FAMILY BY COVERING UP WITH LONG SLEEVES, SHOES, SOCKS AND PANTS WHEN YOU GO OUTSIDE, AND USE MOSQUITO REPELLANT.

AND WHEN YOU'RE INSIDE, COVER YOUR DOORS AND WINDOWS WITH SCREENS.

CHALMERS IS HERE TO TELL YOU MORE ABOUT WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP, BUT I JUST WANT TO MAKE ONE FINAL POINT:

IT REALLY IS EASY FOR YOU TO HELP US WITH THIS. AND THAT'S WHAT I ENCOURAGE EVERYONE TO DO. BECAUSE YOUR INVOLVEMENT IS CRITICAL TO PREVENTING MOSQUITO BREEDING IN MIAMI-DADE.

IN OTHER WORDS, OUR RESIDENTS ARE ALSO OUR PARTNERS IN THIS EFFORT.

IF YOU NEED MORE INFORMATION ABOUT MOSQUITO CONTROL, PLEASE VISIT WWW.MIAMIDADE.GOV/MOSQUITOES.

AND IF YOU WANT TO REPORT A MOSQUITO NUISANCE OR REQUEST AN INSPECTION, PLEASE CALL 3-1-1 FOR ASSISTANCE.

LET'S ALL DO OUR PART TO KEEP MIAMI-DADE COUNTY SAFE.

THANK YOU.

BEFORE I INVITE CHALMERS VASQUEZ TO COME UP AND SPEAK FOR A MOMENT, I'LL GIVE SOME BRIEF REMARKS IN SPANISH. WE'LL ANSWER YOUR QUESTIONS AFTER HE'S FINISHED.

MUY BUENOS DÍAS DAMAS Y CABALLEROS. ESTAMOS AQUÍ HOY PORQUE COMO SABEMOS LA TEMPORADA DE LLUVIA SE ACERCA Y COMO ALCALDE QUIERO QUE TODOS ESTEMOS PREPARADOS.

NO HAY NADA MÁS IMPORTANTE PARA MI QUE LA SALUD Y SEGURIDAD DE NUESTROS RESIDENTES.

QUIERO ENFATIZAR QUE AQUÍ EN MIAMI-DADE NO HAY UNA AMENAZA INMEDIATA DEL VIRUS DEL ZIKA. DE LOS 44 CASOS CONFIRMADOS, NI UNO HA SIDO ADQUIRIDO LOCALMENTE.

SIN EMBARGO AUNQUE NO TENEMOS UN PROBLEMA DEL ZIKA EN MIAMI-DADE, ES NUESTRA RESPONSABILIDAD ESTAR PREPARADOS Y HACER TODO LO NECESARIO PARA PROTEGER A NUESTRA COMUNIDAD.

EL GOBIERNO A NIVEL LOCAL, ESTATAL Y FEDERAL CONTINÚA TRABAJANDO PARA CONTROLAR LA PROPAGACIÓN DEL ZIKA Y YO PERSONALMENTE CONTINUARÉ ABOGANDO PARA OBTENER FONDOS ADICIONALES EN CASO DE QUE LOS NECESITEMOS.

AQUÍ EN MIAMI-DADE TRATAMOS DE SIEMPRE ESTAR PREPARADOS A PESAR DE LO QUE HAGA TALLAHASSEE O WASHINGTON.

HACE DÉCADAS QUE EN MIAMI-DADE EXISTEN ESFUERZOS PARA CONTROLAR LOS MOSQUITOS. LA VICE ALCALDESA ALINA HUDAK Y SU EQUIPO EN LA DIVISIÓN DE MOSQUITO CONTROL, HACEN UN TRABAJO EXTRAORDINARIO.

NUESTRO GERENTE DE OPERACIONES EN MOSQUITO CONTROL CHALMERS VÁSQUEZ MÁS ADELANTE EXPLICARÁ EN DETALLE NUESTROS

MÉTODOS PREVENTIVOS PARA CONTROLAR LOS MOSQUITOS EN NUESTRA ÁREA.

ES MUY IMPORTANTE QUE NUESTRA COMUNIDAD SIGA LAS INSTRUCCIONES DE NUESTRA CAMPAÑA "DRENAR Y CUBRIR."

POR EJEMPLO, EN SU PATIO DRENE EL AGUA ESTANCADA.

CÚBRASE LA PIEL CON PANTALONES LARGOS Y MANGAS LARGAS SI VA A ESTAR AFUERA CUANDO LOS MOSQUITOS ESTÁN ACTIVOS.

APLIQUE REPELENTE Y CUBRA PUERTAS Y VENTANAS CON MALLAS.

SI NECESITA MÁS INFORMACIÓN VISITE EL PORTAL WWW.MIAMIDADE.GOV/MOSQUITOES.

MUCHAS GRACIAS Y AHORA LE PASO EL MICRÓFONO A CHALMERS.