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## OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

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September 1, 2016

**TO:** Chairwoman Lisa A. Bartlett, 5<sup>th</sup> District  
Vice Chair Michelle Steel, 2<sup>nd</sup> District  
Supervisor Andrew Do, 1<sup>st</sup> District  
Supervisor Todd Spitzer, 3<sup>rd</sup> District  
Supervisor Shawn Nelson, 4<sup>th</sup> District

**SUBJECT: Zika Response Update**

We are providing an update to your Board regarding the memo dated February 1, 2016 addressing the spread of Zika virus infections internationally and the Health Care Agency (HCA) response. Zika is an infectious disease caused by the Zika virus, which is transmitted to people by two species of mosquitoes in the genus *Aedes*. These two species of *Aedes* mosquitoes are now found in Orange County and are collectively referred to as “invasive mosquitoes”. The virus can also spread from pregnant mother to fetus, through sexual transmission, or through blood transfusion. Symptoms of Zika typically include fever, rash, joint pain, and/or red eye. Approximately 80% of people infected with Zika virus are asymptomatic, and for those who do have symptoms the disease is typically mild. The greatest concern is for women who are pregnant, given the increased risk of causing microcephaly, or congenital brain disease, in infants. Women who are pregnant or planning to get pregnant should avoid travel to locations where the virus is present; and if that is not possible, take precautions to prevent mosquito bites.

There have been more than 2,500 cases of Zika disease reported in the continental United States, more than 500 pregnant women infected, and 16 infants born with birth defects to moms with Zika virus infections. All cases in the continental United States have occurred in travelers to countries or territories where the virus is spreading, aside from local spread in pockets of Florida. Public Health officials are monitoring the situation in Florida closely to clarify the risk of the virus spreading nationally. Orange County has identified 16 cases to date, all associated with travel to areas with local Zika transmission. There is no evidence of local spread of Zika virus disease in Orange County.

The HCA is actively monitoring the situation and pushing out communications as necessary. Examples of our activities include:

- Advising medical providers to assure that suspect cases are quickly identified and tested, and that confirmed cases are provided education to keep themselves and their community safe.

MEMBERS, BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

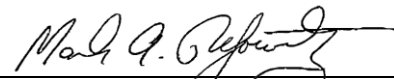
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- Working with medical providers to identify any infected pregnant women or infants born with congenital disease.
- Coordinating with Orange County Mosquito and Vector Control District (OCMVD) in order to respond to all confirmed cases in Orange County in order to minimize the risk that local transmission may occur.
- Maintaining ongoing communications with the OCMVCD including regular meetings involving key staff from both agencies and two table top exercises to date. OCMVCD also provides an interactive map of known invasive mosquito infestation locations on their website (<http://www.ocvector.org/InvasiveMosquitoes.html>).
- Collaborating with OCMVCD and the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) to develop plans to respond to any local spread of disease including coordinated public communications and identifying the particular responsibilities for CDPH, HCA, and OCMVCD in such an event.
- Participating in ongoing conference calls and monitoring communications from partners such as CDPH and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).
- Providing web-based information ([www.ochealthinfo.com/zika](http://www.ochealthinfo.com/zika)) for the general public as well as medical providers that includes resources such as fact sheets in multiple languages, frequently asked questions and recommendations from the CDC.

We will provide additional information to the Board of Supervisors if there is any change in the situation posing increased risk to residents in the county. Please contact David Souleles, Deputy Agency Director of Public Health Services, at (714) 834-3882 with any questions.



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DS/RS/MAR: mm;mh 16-068

cc: Frank Kim, County Executive Officer  
Mark Denny, Chief Operating Officer  
Richard J. Howard, District Manager, Vector Control