

OPERATIONAL RISK COMMUNICATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PLAN

RESPONDING TO LOCAL MOSQUITO-BORNE TRANSMISSION OF ZIKA VIRUS

July 2016

This plan template is provided as part of the Zika Community Action Response Toolkit (Z-CART) for state, local, and tribal, public health staff to adapt to their needs in the context of local mosquito-borne transmission of Zika virus infections. It contains updated Zika-specific content and is intended as a resource for supporting Zika response plans.



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Purpose of Plan

This document outlines an approach to risk communication and community engagement planning and is intended as a template for state, local, and tribal agencies to adapt to their needs and to use for reviewing plans for communicating about Zika during the event of locally transmitted Zika virus.

A risk communication and community engagement plan should be developed to help state, local, and tribal public health leaders to tie larger public health goals and objectives to specific risk-based communication strategies and tactics that will be used during an emergency response to confirmed cases of local mosquito-borne transmission of Zika virus.

This document is intended to help state public health leaders to prepare risk-based communication strategies and community engagement plans **before** laboratory confirmation of the first locally acquired (transmitted by the bite of a local vector) case of Zika virus infection in their jurisdiction. This document is intended to complement the following existing CDC resources:

- Interim CDC Zika Response Plan (CONUS and Hawaii) (http://www.cdc.gov/zika/pdfs/zika-draft-interim-conus-plan.pdf)
- CDC Zika Communication Planning Guide for States (http://www.cdc.gov/zika/public-health-partners/comm-planning-guide.html)
- Information for State and Local Health Departments (http://www.cdc.gov/zika/public-health-partners/index.html)

Planning Goals

- Increase audiences' knowledge and awareness of Zika virus as a public health threat to pregnant women, their fetuses, and others.
- Provide information to healthcare providers that enables them to care for community members who
 may have been exposed to Zika virus.
- Create communication and health education materials that are easily accessible, understandable, and actionable for all lay and professional audiences.
- Strengthen the ability of health systems to provide assistance and continued care to community members that may have been exposed to Zika virus.
- Promote interagency and multisectoral information sharing and updates at federal, state, local, territorial levels.

Target Audiences

Audience segmentation involves grouping people on the basis of one or more characteristics they have in common. Members of a group in a communication context should have similar characteristics that are important to tailoring of messages and materials for specific audiences.

Primary audiences

- Pregnant women with cases of Zika
- All others with cases of Zika
- Friends and family of people with cases of Zika
- People with suspected cases of Zika
- Pregnant women in an area with local mosquito-borne transmission (i.e., geographic area for Zika virus intervention)
- Women who are trying to become pregnant
- Women not trying to conceive but not actively trying to prevent pregnancy
- Sex partners of pregnant women and women trying to become pregnant
- Family and friends of women who are pregnant or trying to get pregnant
- People who live in, work in, or travel to an area with local mosquito-borne transmission
- Blood donation centers

Secondary audiences

- Healthcare providers serving the populations in a geographic area for Zika virus intervention
- Media, policymakers, and other interested parties
- Businesses and organizations in and around the area of the confirmed case(s)

Behavioral Objectives

Behavioral objectives for intended audience(s) (what we want them to do) are listed below.

Primary audiences

- Understand how Zika spreads.
- Know the potential risk of Zika virus infection during pregnancy.
- Know the signs and symptoms of Zika virus disease and that many people infected with Zika virus won't have symptoms.
- Know and be able to perform the steps to reduce the risk of spreading the virus by preventing mosquito bites, and by using condoms during sex (also prevents unintended pregnancies).
- Know that microcephaly (a birth defect that is a sign that the brain did not fully develop) can be
 caused by Zika virus infection during pregnancy and that Guillain-Barré syndrome (an uncommon
 sickness of the nervous system in which a person's own immune system damages the nerve cells,
 causing muscle weakness, and sometimes, paralysis) is strongly associated with Zika in a small
 proportion of people.
- Be able to identify reliable sources of information about Zika and medical referral, testing, and treatment.

Secondary audiences

- Know the signs, symptoms, exposure risks, detection methods, and recommended care for patients with Zika virus infection, microcephaly, and Guillain-Barré syndrome.
- Based on exposure history, signs and symptoms, rule out other possible mosquito-borne diseases (dengue, chikungunya) or similar causes of acute febrile illness (influenza, leptospirosis).
- Know and be able to explain guidance for conception and sexual prevention.
- Identify and arrange testing for
 - Symptomatic patients who have had potential exposure to Zika virus and
 - Asymptomatic pregnant women and women trying to get pregnant who have traveled to an
 area with Zika or who have had unprotected sex with a person who has tested positive for
 Zika.
- Report information about pregnant women with laboratory evidence of possible Zika virus infection and infants with congenital Zika virus exposure to their state, local, or tribal health department.
- Be able to identify reliable sources of information and referral networks for specialty care for pregnant women and exposed infants.
- Know how to counsel patients about prevention methods.

State, local, and tribal health partners

- Know how Zika spreads.
- Understand recommended public health actions for controlling Zika (for example, vector control strategies) and advice for preventing mosquito bites.
- Ensure women and their partners are educated about sexual transmission and have access to condoms or long-acting reversible contraceptives for couples who do not wish to get pregnant if needed.
- Assist with local communication and implementation of the public health response, which may include defining a geographic area for Zika virus intervention to help stop transmission.
- Prioritize testing of pregnant women; make decisions about testing of asymptomatic pregnant women at the appropriate time and inform healthcare providers.
- Conduct evaluations of actions being taken.
- Build internal capacity to implement and support local responses.
- Build state capacity for diagnostic testing.

Concerned and interested people*

- Know how Zika spreads.
- Know where to seek information about potential cases of Zika and geographic areas for Zika virus intervention.
- Know the symptoms of Zika and how to get care and be tested for Zika.
- Know the risks of Zika virus infection and steps to take to reduce the risk of spreading the virus, including
 - Ways to prevent mosquito bites and sexual transmission,
 - Guidance regarding length of time after infection for condom use and delaying conception, and

- Use of insect repellents by everyone in the affected area.
- Take action to protect pregnant women through mosquito control activities and educating others.

Strategies

In addition to practicing principles of effective crisis and risk communication (https://emergency.cdc.gov/cerc/), local public health responders should use the recommended communication and education strategies listed below.

Communication strategies

- Identify and communicate with populations at risk, prioritizing pregnant women, women of child-bearing age, and their sex partners.
- Suggest actions that people at risk can take to protect themselves and their community (for example, prevent mosquito bites). Address the need for accurate information about their risk for other affected or concerned populations.
- Respond to public inquiries by providing credible, up-to-date information.

Educational strategies

- Educate affected populations and other stakeholders on
 - How to recognize Zika virus symptoms
 - Steps they can take to control mosquitoes
 - How to prevent sexual transmission by using condoms the correct way every time
 - For women not wishing to get pregnant, information about long-acting reversible contraceptives
- Provide educational materials to healthcare providers that help them to counsel and care for patients who may have been exposed to Zika virus or have been confirmed to have Zika virus infection.

Sample Outline of Planned Communication Activities

Communication activities may involve responding to several scenarios involving local transmission, including a suspected case, a confirmed single case, and multiperson transmission. The following example includes activities that may not be needed for all scenarios (for example, defining a geographic area for Zika virus intervention would not be required for a suspected or single confirmed case).

^{*}Additional audience-focused objectives in Appendix A.

Sample Scenario: Confirmed Multiperson Local Transmission

For definitions of multiperson local transmission, please see the CDC Interim Zika Response Plan (http://www.cdc.gov/zika/pdfs/zika-draft-interim-conus-plan.pdf).

Public Notification Steps

Pre-release of information

- Prepare a public *Geographic Area for Intervention Alert* accompanied by a press release and other materials containing key details of the local transmission and preventative health messages.
- Translate the Geographic Area for Intervention Alert into Spanish and other languages as needed.
- Develop materials for the public based on key details of the local transmission and preventative health messages (see *Release of information*).
- Notify appropriate agencies and governmental authorities before public release. Information sent to
 officials should include
 - The geographic area for intervention (per CDC Zika Interim Response Plan.
 [http://www.cdc.gov/zika/pdfs/zika-draft-interim-conus-plan.pdf]) to be announced.
 - o Pre-release copies of the press release and other materials.
 - o The links to existing online information about Zika (local and CDC).
 - As appropriate, materials explaining local, state, tribal, and CDC public health response activities and health messages.
 - o **Do not include personally identifiable patient information**. All Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) guidelines should be followed.
- Prepare for media outreach
 - o Identify the primary and additional spokespeople for the media coverage.

Release of information

- Distribute press releases to local TV, radio, and newspaper outlets.
- Hold a joint press conference with appropriate agencies (optional).
- Use CDC-provided talking points to ensure consistency of messages, increase awareness of recommended preventative health messages, especially those for pregnant women, their sex partners, and their families.
- Prioritize communication channels that will reach pregnant women and their sex partners and families to convey preventative health messages and resources for further information.
 - Inform the local community through a range of channels
 - O Social media, websites, text services, mobile media.
 - County/local alert systems and emergency notification systems. For example, reverse 9-1-1.

- o Paid notifications in local papers.
- O Direct mailing to all addresses within 1-2 miles of the geographic area for intervention.
- Post fact sheets on daycare centers, Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) clinics, OB/GYN clinics, and other venues frequented by pregnant women.
- O Post fact sheets in local schools, libraries, community centers, health facilities, and municipal buildings as appropriate.
- Community meetings with subject matter experts.
- Communicate with area healthcare providers, including local chapters of American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) and family practitioners, informing them of online sources for clinical guidance and patient education materials.

Information available to the public

Use information products provided by CDC as part of the *Zika Community Action and Response Toolkit* (Z-CART). If you work in a public health agency and would like to access materials, register for the CDC State, Tribal, Local & Territorial (STLT) Collaboration Space (http://www.cdc.gov/stltpublichealth/cord/registration.html). Once registration is completed, staff can access the Z-CART and its contents in the Communication Resource Center (https://partner.cdc.gov/CookieAuth.dll?GetLogon?curl=Z2FsitesZ2FOSTLTSZ2FCRC&reason=o&formdir=6).

Products include:

Media Outreach	Pregnant Women
□ Media advisory	☐ Zika and Sex: Information for Pregnant Women
☐ Media statement: First case of local transmission	☐ Zika and Sex: Information for Men
☐ Media statement: Widespread transmission	☐ Doctor's Visit Checklists
All Audiences	☐ Fact Sheet: Pregnant and Living in an Area with Zika?
☐ Zika Alert: Zika is spreading in your area☐ How to Protect Against Mosquito Bites	Healthcare Providers
☐ Build Your Own Zika Prevention Kit	☐ Zika Virus Disease: An Overview for Clinicians
☐ Web elements (buttons, badges, syndication)☐ Door Hangers: 1. Zika prevention; 2. Vector Control	 Patient Education Materials: Zika Fact Sheets for Pregnant Women (listed above)
	Patient Education Materials: If You Test Positive for Zika Virus
	☐ Presentation for local provider education
	<u>Businesses</u>
	☐ Worker Safety Fact Sheets
	☐ Worker Safety Presentation

- Make Z-CART materials available to the affected community, local media, and the public.
 - o Post initial information and updates to state, local, and tribal public health websites (html and pdf format) and promote by social and traditional media; travel-related advisories and updates will also be available at http://www.cdc.gov/zika.
 - Make information available by request through local numbers.

Local, State, Tribal, and CDC Protocols

State, local, and tribal authorities are the leads for designation of geographic area for intervention.

- Follow existing protocols for releasing information and media outreach.
- Consider using CDC-developed fact sheets, press releases, and other materials. These products have been approved by CDC and can be used as written. If local jurisdictions want to modify them, please remove the CDC logo.
- State, local, and tribal staff should notify appropriate agencies and reach out to the community and media.

CDC

- All activities initiated by CDC will be coordinated with state, local, and tribal personnel.
- A CDC Emergency Response Team (CERT) will be available for rapid deployment to assist the state, local, and tribal health department (if invited by the local jurisdiction). CERT will work in concert with state, local, and tribal authorities to support their activities as needed.

Team Roles and Responsibilities

Staffing Planning Worksheet

Use this worksheet to plan your staffing for the functional team members needed for your emergency communication response. Consider asking people from state, local, and tribal health departments, partners, volunteers, contractors, and other government agencies to participate. For more resources, see http://emergency.cdc.gov/cerc/resources/.

Team / Function	Qualifications/Skills Needed	# of Staff Needed	Potential Staff Member (Contact Information)	Training Needed?
Joint Information Leadership	 Decision-making authority Management skills Spokesperson skills Risk communication principles 			
Media	 Risk communication principles Media relations Spokesperson training Message development 			
Spokespersons	 Risk communication principles Communication skills Spokesperson skills 			
Content	 Content and message development Risk communication principles Clear communication principles 			
Web	DesignWeb developmentUsability and metrics			

Team / Function	Qualifications/Skills Needed	# of Staff Needed	Potential Staff Member (Contact Information)	Training Needed?
Clinician Communication	 Knowledge of clinician environment Analytical skills 			
Communication Monitoring and Research	 Media monitoring On-line metrics Analytical skills 			
Government Liaison	 Organizational skills Problem-solving Diplomatic skills 			
Community Outreach	 Superior oral communication skills Risk communication principles 			

Partnerships

CDC's official Crisis + Emergency Risk Communication manual has a number of resources for planning and using partners during an emergency event. Partners' roles could include helping with immediate dissemination of Zika-related information; being part of an advisory panel before, during, and after the event; and helping identify resources and find support as needed.

SAMPLE Potential Partner Organizations and Roles

State, local, and tribal agencies, associations, and local chapters focused on

- Healthcare administration
- Persons with disabilities
- Children and families
- Commerce, business
- Environmental protection
- Hospital associations
- Community health centers
- Pharmacy association
- Blood donation centers

Agencies and organizations serving pregnant women

- March of Dimes Local Chapters
- Women and Infants Clinics (WIC)
- Title X family planning clinics

Sample Budget

ACTIVITY/ITEM	IN-KIND	CONTRACT SUPPORT
Information gathering and strategic planning		
Strategic plan review and updating		
Printing of Z-CART – tailored CDC and other material		
Additional kit material development – local resources		
Web redesign and updating		
Call support contract - local		

Press kits/press support	
Material dissemination: direct mail, others	
Evaluation plan and implementation	
TOTALS	

Additional Resources

Zika Communication Planning Guides for States

Zika Communication Planning Guide for States webpage (http://www.cdc.gov/zika/public-health-partners/comm-planning-guide.html)

Zika Communication Planning Guide for States (http://www.cdc.gov/zika/pdfs/zika-communications-planning-guide-for-states.pdf)

Crisis Communication Development Planning

CDC, 2014. Chapter 4. Crisis Communication Plans. Crisis + Emergency Risk Communication 2014 Edition (http://emergency.cdc.gov/cerc/resources/pdf/cerc 2014edition.pdf)

Vulnerable Populations

Special Populations Assessment Tool (http://emergency.cdc.gov/cerc/resources/pdf/specialpopulationsassessment.pdf)

Preparedness Checklist

Crisis Emergency Risk Communication Checklist (http://emergency.cdc.gov/cerc/resources/pdf/cercplanchecklist.pdf)

Appendix A: Table of Potential Dissemination and Evaluation Options

The purpose of this appendix is to provide planners with example activities, associated products that may be prepared, and possible evaluation measures for consideration. This is not an exhaustive list and is for example only.

Segments	Objectives	Potential Activities	Products/Materials	Evaluation Processes/Methods
Primary Audience	 Know how Zika spreads. Know the potential risk of Zika virus infection during 	Earned media print - local newspapers and newsletters	 Press releases with key messages, spokespersons 	Media monitoring
	 pregnancy. Know the signs and symptoms of Zika virus 	Website and pages	Website and pages	Website visits and traffic analysis
	symptoms of Zika virus disease and that many people infected with Zika virus won't have symptoms. • Know and be able to perform the steps to reduce the risk of spreading the virus by preventing mosquito bites, and by using condoms during sex (also prevents unintended	Social media ad buys	Social media ads and video	Impressions, interactions with social media ads
		Hotline	 Hotline script Local health department contact information 	Feedback form, call logCall volume
		Direct mail – postcards	Alert postcard with information about symptoms and website	Counts of undelivered cards
	pregnancies).Know that microcephaly (a birth defect that is a	Community meeting with opinion leadersPosting flyers in	Fact sheets on Zika virus disease and prevention	Numbers of community members reached, resources distributed

sign that the brain did not fully develop) can be caused by Zika virus infection during pregnancy and that Guillain-Barré syndrome (an uncommon sickness of the nervous system in which a person's own	community centers, churches • Website/pages	 Booklet on mosquito control strategies with inserts for local tailoring Website/pages 	Visits/traffic analysis
Guillain-Barré syndrome (an uncommon sickness of the nervous system in		Website/pages	Visits/traffic analysis
 immune system damages the nerve cells, causing muscle weakness, and sometimes, paralysis) is strongly associated with Zika infection. Be able to identify reliable sources of information about Zika and medical referral, testing, and treatment. 			
Know the signs, symptoms, exposure risks, detection methods, and recommended care for patients with Zika virus infection, microcephaly, and Guillain-Barré syndrome.	Same as affected pops, but different messages.		
	 immune system damages the nerve cells, causing muscle weakness, and sometimes, paralysis) is strongly associated with Zika infection. Be able to identify reliable sources of information about Zika and medical referral, testing, and treatment. Know the signs, symptoms, exposure risks, detection methods, and recommended care for patients with Zika virus infection, microcephaly, and Guillain-Barré 	immune system damages the nerve cells, causing muscle weakness, and sometimes, paralysis) is strongly associated with Zika infection. Be able to identify reliable sources of information about Zika and medical referral, testing, and treatment. Same as affected pops, but different messages. Same as affected pops, but different messages.	immune system damages the nerve cells, causing muscle weakness, and sometimes, paralysis) is strongly associated with Zika infection. Be able to identify reliable sources of information about Zika and medical referral, testing, and treatment. Same as affected pops, but different messages. Same as affected pops, but different messages.

Segments	Objectives	Potential Activities	Products/Materials	Evaluation Processes/Methods
	history, signs and			
	symptoms, rule out other			
	possible mosquito-borne diseases (dengue,			
	chikungunya) or similar			
	causes of acute febrile			
	illness (influenza,			
	leptospirosis).			
	Know and be able to			
	explain guidance for			
	conception and sexual			
	prevention.			
	 Identify and arrange 			
	testing for symptomatic			
	patients who have had			
	potential exposure to Zika			
	virus and asymptomatic			
	pregnant women and			
	women trying to get			
	pregnant who have			
	traveled to an area with			
	Zika or who have had			
	unprotected sex with a person who has tested			
	positive for Zika.			
	Report information about			
	pregnant women with			
	laboratory evidence of			
	possible Zika virus			
	infection and infants with			

Segments	Objectives	Potential Activities	Products/Materials	Evaluation Processes/Methods
	congenital Zika virus exposure to their state, local, or tribal health department.			
	Be able to identify reliable sources of information and referral networks for specialty care for pregnant women and exposed infants.			
	Know how to counsel patients about prevention methods.			
State, local, and tribal health partners	 Know how Zika spreads. Understand recommended public health actions for controlling Zika, for example, vector control strategies and advice for preventing mosquito 	Conference calls to coordinate and support local responses among agencies; discuss roles and responsibilities	AgendasAction tracking logs	Number of actions taken
		Talking points	Talking points	Media monitoring
	 Ensure women and their partners are educated about sexual transmission and have access to condoms or long-acting 	 Z-CART: materials for localizing and disseminating to their communities, interested parties 	Z-CART Kit contents	 Number of materials tailored Number of materials distributed
	reversible contraceptives for couples who do not	Listserv for quick	• Listserv	Website metrics

Segments	Objectives	Potential Activities	Products/Materials	Evaluation Processes/Methods
	wish to get pregnant if needed.	communication needs		
	Assist with local communication and implementation of the public health response, which may include defining a geographic area for intervention to help stop transmission.			
	 Prioritize testing of pregnant women; make decisions about testing of asymptomatic pregnant women at the appropriate time and inform healthcare providers. 			
	Conduct evaluations of actions being taken.			
	Build internal capacity to implement and support local responses.			
	Build state capacity for diagnostic testing.			
City/local officials	Be aware of scenarios for Zika virus transmission	Contact by phone before declaring a geographic area for	Script – talking points	• N/A

Segments	Objectives	Potential Activities	Products/Materials	Evaluation Processes/Methods
	 and response. Be aware of agencies' activities for the affected area and surrounding community; preview materials released in community if desired. Prioritize testing of pregnant women; make decision about testing of asymptomatic pregnant women at appropriate time and inform healthcare providers. 	Zika virus intervention Conference calls Website	 Facts on CDC, Zika, local case response plans Website updates 	 Number of actions taken Website visits/traffic analysis; metrics
	 Inform community members through their channels. Have local/state partner and CDC contact info if questions arise. 			
Healthcare providers	 Know the signs, symptoms, testing recommendations, and recommended care for patients with Zika infection or other 	 Professional education materials Patient education materials 	CDC website materialsHAN	 Number of healthcare providers reached Number of outreach events

Segments	Objectives	Potential Activities	Products/Materials	Evaluation Processes/Methods
	 Mosquito-borne diseases Know the recommendations regarding testing of asymptomatic pregnant women Know guidance for conception post-exposure or symptoms and implement appropriate counseling. 	Networks	List of nearby resources for patient referrals	Number of referrals
		CDC expert medical consultation if needed and clinician calls (COCA)	CDC clinical inquiries line	Number of consultations
		Website and social media updates	Website and social media updates	Website visits/traffic analysis; social media and
	• Report information about pregnant women with laboratory evidence of possible Zika virus infection and their exposed infants, and infants with congenital Zika virus infection to their state, local, or tribal health department.			website metrics
	Identify referral networks for advanced care and sources of information.			
	Know how to counsel patients about prevention methods.			

Segments	Objectives	Potential Activities	Products/Materials	Evaluation Processes/Methods
Media	 Be aware of all CDC, state, and local responses and plans. Publicize Zika facts, health messages, and risk appropriately. Publicize prevention strategies (vector control and sexual prevention). Publicize ways to protect pregnant women. 	 Press kit Press releases Background fact sheets Example news articles 	Press releasesFact sheets	Media monitoring
		 Subject matter experts for Interviews – state, local, and CDC experts Website 	Talking pointsWeb updates	 Number of interviews, accuracy of coverage Website visits/traffic analysis
Business owners in affected area and surrounding areas	Know the status of the response in their area and inform their workers.	Direct mail	Facts on response, OSHA guidance	Dissemination numbers
	Develop a management plan for response if necessary.	Educational sessions for workers on-site	 Zika response management materials Script – talking points Workplace presentations CDC-INFO, hotline 	Number of presentations, workers reached

Cross-audience Objectives	ACTIVITIES	MATERIALS	EVALUATION TO BE DETERMINED
Identify the needs of other affected or concerned populations.	Public availability sessionsWeb surveys	Public commentFeedback formsWeb surveys	 Number of members of public responding Actions taken in response
Respond to public and professional inquiries by providing information, referrals, and feedback mechanisms.	 Local call network in place Bring state partners online to build a call triage network Social media feedback 	 Call log form Website posting process and Q&As about how to respond to a caller 	 Number of inquiries handled Number of comments received