

Mission:

To protect, promote & improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county & community efforts.



Rick Scott
Governor

Celeste Philip, MD, MPH
Surgeon General and Secretary

Vision: To be the **Healthiest State** in the Nation

FLORIDA DOH HEALTH ADVISORY Hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria Evacuees Version 1.0, October 18, 2017

Background

This year's hurricane season has brought devastation to many areas of the mainland United States and its Territories. Those affected are seeking safety and housing by evacuating to other areas. Evacuees leaving Texas, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands due to Hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria, have been arriving in Florida – and will probably continue to do so for some time. Puerto Rico and U.S. Virgin Islands experienced Zika virus epidemics and are still considered areas of risk by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Brownsville, Texas was designated a Zika cautionary area from October 29, 2016-August 29, 2017. The following information is provided for health care professionals caring for women and infants who may have been exposed to Zika virus during pregnancy. General guidance related to Zika virus reporting is also included for completeness.

- Zika virus testing is available at Florida Department of Health for symptomatic patients who are uninsured, potentially exposed asymptomatic pregnant women through the end of the first post-natal week who are uninsured, infants of potentially exposed pregnant women, suspected Guillain-Barre syndrome (GBS) cases with recent potential exposure to Zika, and suspected local cases meeting criteria below.
- Health care providers for pregnant women or child evacuees born during or following the Zika epidemic in Puerto Rico or U.S. Virgin Islands should contact their county health department if they have Zika testing related questions: [Florida Department of Health Local Epidemiology Contact List](#)
- Parents of children with special medical needs, including issues related to in utero Zika virus infection, should contact Children's Medical Services (CMS) 1-855-901-5390 for information about available services.

Please contact your county health department on the same business day of suspect Zika infections to ensure state-of-the art public health laboratory testing including:

- Infant or fetus with microcephaly, intracranial calcifications, or other abnormalities, or poor fetal outcome diagnosed after the first trimester **and** with history of residence or travel to an area with Zika virus activity during pregnancy. Testing of both mother and infant is recommended; **testing of the infant is still recommended even if the mother previously tested negative.**
- Infant evacuees born in hurricane impacted areas since approximately September 1, 2017 who have not been tested for Zika.
- All persons with two or more of the following signs/symptoms: fever, maculopapular rash, arthralgia or conjunctivitis (GBS could follow) **and** a history of residence or travel to an area reporting Zika virus activity in the two weeks prior to illness onset.
- Suspect local cases in a county/area with no reported local Zika virus infections **and** three or more of the following signs/symptoms: fever, maculopapular rash, arthralgia or conjunctivitis.

Contact information: [Florida Department of Health Local Epidemiology Contact List](#)