

CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION

Moderator: Jade Anderson

March 30, 2017

3:30 pm EDT

Coordinator: Welcome and thank you for standing by. At this time all participants are in a listen-only mode. At the end of today's presentation we will conduct a question and answer session. To ask a question please press star 1. Today's conference is being recorded. If you have any objections, you may disconnect at this time. I would now like to turn the meeting over to Ms. Jade Anderson with CDC State Coordination Task Force. Ma'am, you may begin.

Jade Anderson: Thank you Brandon. Good afternoon, and good morning to those calling in from the Pacific Islands. This is Jade Anderson of the State Coordination Task Force Policy and Communications Team. Welcome to Sustaining the Zika Response in 2017 Medical Investigations National Webinar. Today, participants include state health officials, state, local and territorial preparedness directors, and anyone who participates in Zika-related activities within their jurisdictions.

We are aware that the invite has been shared broadly with constituents or appropriate parties of interest. However, if you represent the news media or press, we are going to ask that you please disconnect at this time. Today's webinar has been structured for state and local public health participation.

The intent of today's webinar is to provide a medical investigations overview session on Zika preparedness and response activities. A functional 2-way discussion will follow. Today's webinar includes CDC Sustaining the Zika Response in 2017 Series. Please keep in mind, we will continue to update our guidance as we learn more through science. You can always access the most recent information on CDC's Zika web page.

After today's question and answer segment - if you have additional questions, please feel free to email us at preparedness@CDC.gov. Again, that's preparedness@CDC.gov. Today, Dr. Maleeka Glover is the subject matter expert representing the medical investigations team. Dr. Maleeka Glover is a senior epidemiologist at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention here in Atlanta, Georgia. Dr. Glover holds a doctoral degree from Harvard School of Public Health and an MPH from the University Of Michigan School Of Public Health. She is also an epidemic intelligence service alum, excuse me, also referred to as E-I-S and a certified health education specialist.

Currently, she is the director for the CDC's Medical Investigations Team. The Medical Investigations team supports CDC preparedness before, during, and after all public health emergencies by responding to and monitoring clinical inquires, coordinate responder assessments, and establishing domestic emergency response teams also referred to as CERT. She and her team support all activations but also support non-response activities and monitor advance of interest around the world. Dr. Glover, I will turn it over to you.

Dr. Maleeka Glover: Thank you. Good afternoon everyone. We're just going to do a quick overview of the team and the support that the team provides for the Zika response. Next? We'll go through clinical inquires, which I'm hoping that lots of folks are familiar with; do a little overview of what the CERT team is - how it can be a resource; and just give a little bit of an overview of some of the CERT teams that we've deployed for the Zika response. And then, lastly, end with some questions and answers.

Next? As Jade mentioned, the Medical Investigations Team - or MIT - support CDC preparedness before, during, and after all public health emergencies. We respond to and monitor clinical inquires, support responder assessments,

establish and manage domestic emergency response teams, and collaborate with internal as well as external partners. Next?

This is just the structure of our team. We have the three components that I mentioned earlier. And some of our internal partners you've heard from in the previous weeks and this week when they did their webinars, and some of our partners which are hopefully on the phone listening, include providers, state and local and tribal health departments, international partners as well as tribal leaders and organizations.

Next? Our Clinical Inquires Team is responsible for managing clinical inquires and maintaining inquiry related data that CDC receives. It provides a dedicated service to health departments and providers regarding the current response, provides accountability for call center operations, provides feedback to inform ongoing response activities, provides feedback into ongoing programmatic operations, and also informs ongoing response efforts in the context of a public health emergency. Next?

As far as the process is concerned, our clinicians are responsible for ensuring that responses to clinical inquiries from the general public, clinicians, medical and laboratory workers, environmental service professionals, healthcare administrators, and healthcare agency representatives are timely, appropriate, supportive, and fully documented. Next? Just a little bit of data to share, with regard to the clinical inquires we received since the beginning of the response. These inquiries are calls as well as emails. And from January 8, the beginning of the response, through March 25, we have received 7,182 inquiries thus far. Next?

Out of the 7,000 plus inquiries, 1,362 of them have been calls alone. And they range from categories to sort of general questions about travel, to questions

specifically about pregnancy-related issues, issues related to children, as well as specific questions about testing, and other questions about epidemiology.

Next?

And lastly, we just wanted to give you a sense of - out of those calls - where the majority of those calls are coming from and spread across the United States. Before we move on to the CERT discussion, I just wanted to kind of do a quick service announcement. We will still be 24/7 in terms of the clinical inquires call line. But as of April 1, which is Saturday, we have a new call schedule meaning that we will be in the office and taking calls Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. And after 5 p.m. every weekday as well as weekends, we will still be taking emergency calls. And all calls after that will be returned the next business day. Next?

Now for CERT. Next? CERT is the CDC Emergency Response Team. It's basically a team of highly trained individuals and public health experts that can mobilize and deploy upon identification of local transmission of Zika virus. It occurs following a report of lab-confirmed local transmission of Zika virus. The CERT will deploy to provide technical assistance upon request from a state, local, or tribal health authority; and the team composition is determined by the needs of the requestor. Next?

CERT subject matter experts can quickly be sent anywhere in the United States for state, local, or tribal support. The teams can be composed of individuals that have expertise in epidemiology, pregnancy and birth defects, vector control, laboratory, communications, healthcare, infection control, data management, public health advisors, and individuals who are trained in operations coordination. Next?

When thinking about requesting a CERT, some of the trigger points for requesting or deploying a CERT are single suspected or confirmed local transmission of the Zika virus, multiperson local transmission, priority area support, location and population density, the capacity or resources of the local health authority, timing and seasonality, and general technical assistance. Next?

Some of the CERT SME's activities include assisting with epidemiologic investigation of known cases to determine the timing and source of infection through interviews with suspect cases, family, and possibly primary care providers. They can also work with the existing local vector control programs to fill gaps around the implementation of local measures to diminish the risk of transmission, including vector control and providing information and materials to prevent mosquito-borne transmissions.

They have the skills to enhance or implement - if absent - mosquito surveillance to determine the type, distribution, and population size of competent *Aedes* mosquito species. They can support community engagement efforts to implement vector control strategies and programs, as well as provide communication, research, media, and technical assistance, and audience-focused materials to help local health department staff institute a risk communication campaign locally to provide information regarding the risk of Zika virus infection and personal measures the public can take to decrease their risk for infection and adverse outcomes.

They're also available to facilitate outcome to the local media communities to test and report suspect cases and to provide clear and accountable actions, prevention information to patients, including barrier and other forms of contraception for at-risk populations. And last but not least, they're able to provide onsite training or assistance in performing laboratory tests for Zika

infection, including scaling up of local laboratory capacity, or rapid transport of specimens to reference laboratories. Next?

In addition - with regard to tribal support and technical assistance and CERT site visits, we have been providing support at the request of tribes for field assistance. This includes tribal visits that have been planned in states such as Arizona and Alabama. We've been providing subject matter expertise mainly in the area of technical assistance with reviewing the Zika response plans. We have partnered with the National Indian Health Board for various tribal summits so that we can engage in training, as well as trust building and other engagement activities. And lastly, we are available to support requests for states related to their own work with tribes and, again, focused on training and engagement protocols. Next?

To date our CERT deployments include deployments to Utah, Florida, Texas, and Louisiana. And we've had two site visits thus far and that would be Texas and Alabama. We've had a number of CERT deployments. They continue to be great opportunities, and we continue to receive positive feedback from the state and local health departments. Next? With that I will open it up for questions and further discussion.

Jade Anderson: Dr. Glover, thank you for your presentation. Brandon, we would like to open up the lines for questions at this time.

Coordinator: Thank you. We will now begin the question and answer session. If you would like to ask a question, please press star 1. Please un-mute your phone and record your first and last name clearly when prompted. Your name is required to introduce your question. To withdraw your question you may press star 2. Once again, at this time, if you would like to ask a question, please press star 1.

At this time I'm showing no questions on the phone line.

Jade Anderson: Brandon, we'll wait maybe another minute or two, to see if anyone has a question they'd like to submit.

Coordinator: Sure, and I would like to remind participants, if you would like to ask a question, please press star 1, and we do have a question in queue. One moment please. The question is from (Julie Murphy), your line is open.

(Julie Murphy): Hi, good afternoon. Thank you for your presentation. I was wondering a couple of things. One, if there's a contact or a contact list that we could access online in regard to your services. And if you anticipate the demand for your services to increase in the coming year or remain relatively steady. I know in some areas where funding may be somewhat less than it was in the past - I didn't know if you anticipated an increase in demand for your services and support?

Dr. Maleeka Glover: Thank you so much for your question. As far as the contact is concerned, let me give you my email address. It is MGlover@CDC.gov. You're welcome to reach out to me any time with further questions. And as far as the demand for the CERT is concerned, I think that we're standing by to see what the coming mosquito season brings. But either way, we are prepared to be able to fulfill requests if they do come in.

(Julie Murphy): Thank you.

Dr. Maleeka Glover: And I did want to mention - because I didn't get a chance to mention it when I was presenting - that the CERT is a free resource to the state, and it is not of cost to the state or local health department.

Coordinator: All right, I'm showing no questions. I would like to remind participants, if you would like to ask a question to please press star 1. I'm showing no further questions at this time.

Jade Anderson: All right. Thank you so much for that Brandon. And again - this is Jade Anderson. CDC and the State Coordination Task Force would like to thank you for your attendance and participation throughout the Sustainment Webinar series. Just as a reminder, on the screen you should see displayed a list of functional webinars hosted over the past month. The link to access previous webinars will be provided to our awardees in the Division of State and Local Readiness Friday Update and to our partners from our State Coordination Task Force partner-shared functional mailbox. In the upcoming weeks, the introductory Sustainment Webinar and eight subsequent sessions will all be posted live to the Zika CDC web page along with all transcripts and audio recordings. This is a great tool or resource, if you have not been able to attend every session that we have hosted.

Again, thank you for your participation in today's webinar. Another reminder, please send additional questions to preparedness@CDC.gov - and this could also be questions regarding additional assistance or comments that you have for your jurisdiction. Dr. Glover, thank you so much for your time and your presentation. We will conclude the call now. Have a great evening. And Brandon if you could please standby for a line count?

Coordinator: Yes ma'am. This does conclude today's conference. All lines may disconnect at this time.

Jade Anderson: Thank you.

END