Using Policy to Increase Public Understanding and Enhance State and Community Readiness for Zika

How can state, tribal, territorial and local leaders use law and policy as a tool to prepare for a local outbreak?

- **Community Readiness and Engagement**
  - Engaging communities and stakeholders early and throughout the response is key to building trust
  - Ensure open, clear and timely two-way communications between policy makers and communities and stakeholders
  - Community members and stakeholders should be partners and allies in emergency response

- **Day-to-Day Mosquito Control**
  - Reduce mosquito populations by eliminating breeding grounds and applying pesticides
  - Mosquito control authority may be at the federal, state, tribal, territorial, or local level
    - Authority may be with a mosquito control district or a health, agricultural, or environmental/natural resources department

- **Consider Activating Emergency Powers**
  - Emergency declarations may authorize specific actions or funding that may not be available through day-to-day authorities
  - Laws will dictate who is authorized to issue the emergency declaration, the proper procedures for declaring an emergency, and the actions that can be ordered pursuant to the declaration

- **Other Policy Issues to Consider**
  - Access and use of contraceptives
  - Laboratory capacity and coordination
  - Access to private property
  - Aerial spraying
  - Medicaid reimbursement, (e.g., Zika lab tests)
  - Health education for adolescents for Zika sexual transmission
  - Safe homes, (e.g. window screens, etc.)
  - Working with the private sector to aid in the response
  - Location-specific guidance
  - Scripting for 211 or other call Lines
  - Innovative Prevention and Mitigation Strategies

**Guidance for Next Steps:**

- Work to gather input and achieve community buy-in early and throughout the response by being open, clear and responsive
- Consult with your attorney to determine your jurisdiction’s day-to-day mosquito control authorities and the status of other relevant policy issues
- Assess your risk and consider what emergency powers you have, including:
  - Are emergency powers needed?
  - When would you issue an emergency declaration?
  - How would you issue an emergency declaration?
- Ensure that the emergency actions you wish to take are authorized under laws governing the type of emergency you plan to declare (i.e. disaster, public health emergency, or mosquito emergency)
- Explore options related to additional policy issues

**For more information visit:** [http://www.cdc.gov/zika](http://www.cdc.gov/zika)

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