

Zika Update as at July 18, 2016

Background

On February 1, 2016 the World Health Organization (WHO) declared Zika virus a Public Health Emergency of International Concern. This designation is reserved for public health crises which will have global reach. The first case of zika virus in Jamaica was confirmed on January 29, 2016.

Cases of zika virus in Jamaica

As at July 18, 2016, the Ministry of Health received three thousand seven hundred and forty six (3,746) notifications for the zika virus of which two thousand five hundred and twenty four (2,524) or sixty seven percent (67%) fit the case definition for Zika and were classified as “Suspected Zika”.

Geographic spread

There are forty four (44) laboratory confirmed cases. The confirmed cases were reported from the parishes of St Catherine (8), St Thomas (3), Clarendon (3) and Kingston & St. Andrew (18), Trelawny (1), Manchester (1), St. Ann (1) and nine (9) cases with unknown addresses.

Reported symptoms

Suspected Cases

The most frequently reported symptoms among suspected cases were fever, rash and joint pain broken down as follows:

| Symptom | Number of cases | Percentage |
|---------------------------|------------------------|-------------------|
| Fever | 1540 | 72% |
| Rash | 1127 | 53% |
| Joint pain/stiffness | 856 | 40% |
| Headache | 810 | 38% |
| Conjunctivitis (Red eyes) | 387 | 18% |

| | | |
|-------------|-----|-----|
| Muscle pain | 330 | 15% |
| Cough | 261 | 12% |
| Vomiting | 244 | 11% |
| Back pain | 233 | 11% |

Confirmed cases

Among confirmed cases the most frequently reported symptoms were rash, fever and headache broken down as follows:

| Symptom | Number of Cases | Percentage |
|--------------------------|------------------------|-------------------|
| Rash | 20 | 83% |
| Fever | 15 | 63% |
| Headache | 10 | 42% |
| Joint pain/stiffness | 9 | 38% |
| Conjunctivitis (Red eye) | 5 | 21% |
| Muscle pain | 5 | 21% |
| Cough | 3 | 13% |
| Back pain | 3 | 13% |
| Vomiting | 0 | 0% |

Zika and Pregnancy

There were two hundred and thirty one (231) cases of suspected Zika virus infection in pregnant women reported as at July 18, 2016. Seven (7) of these suspected cases have tested positive; Four (4) confirmed cases were in their second trimester; two (2) in the third trimester; and one (1) unknown. There were two (2) from St. Catherine, three (3) from Kingston and St. Andrew, one (1) from Clarendon and one (1) from St. Ann.

Neurological Complications of Zika Virus Infection

There were fifty five (55) notifications for Guillain Barre (paralysis) Syndrome (GBS) as at July 18, 2016; nine (9) of these fit the case definition for GBS based on clinical signs,

symptoms and investigation results and were deemed suspected cases. One (1) was zika positive, three (3) were negative for Zika virus and five (5) have results pending.