

Zika Update as at July 19, 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 19, 2016, the Ministry of Health received four thousand three hundred and forty three (4,343) notifications for the zika virus of which two thousand eight hundred and forty five (2,845) or sixty five percent (65%) fit the case definition for Zika and were classified as “Suspected Zika”.

Geographic spread

There are fifty five (55) laboratory confirmed cases. The confirmed cases were reported from the parishes of St Catherine (9), St Thomas (5), Clarendon (4) and Kingston & St. Andrew (25), 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 eighty (280) cases of suspected Zika virus infection in pregnant women. Nine (9) of these suspected cases have tested positive.

Neurological Complications of Zika Virus Infection

There were sixty seven (67) notifications for Guillain Barre (paralysis) Syndrome (GBS); 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.