

## **Zika Update as at August 26, 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 August 26, 2016, the Ministry of Health received six thousand seven hundred and ninety-seven (6,797) notifications for the Zika virus of which four thousand nine hundred and forty-six (4,946) or seventy two percent (72%) fit the case definition for Zika and were classified as "Suspected Zika".

### **Geographic spread**

There are eighty three (83) laboratory confirmed cases. The confirmed cases were reported from the parishes of St Catherine (12), St. Mary (2), St Thomas (8), Clarendon (7) and Kingston & St. Andrew (38), Trelawny (1), Manchester (3), St. Ann (2) St. James (3), Westmoreland (1) and four (4) cases with unknown addresses.

### **Zika and Pregnancy**

There were four hundred and seventy (470) cases of suspected Zika virus infection in pregnant women. Thirty one (31) of these suspected cases have tested positive.

### **Neurological Complications of Zika Virus Infection**

There were ninety-eight (98) notifications for Guillain Barre (paralysis) Syndrome (GBS); twenty (20) of these fit the case definition for GBS based on clinical signs, symptoms and investigation results and were deemed suspected cases. Three (3) were Zika positive.