Meet Puerto Rico
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Statement and Frequently Asked Questions
Regarding Zika Virus
January 27, 2016

Statement

According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), in December 2015, one locally transmitted case of Zika, a mosquito-borne virus infection, was detected in Puerto Rico. This was the first case of Zika virus in Puerto Rico. Since then, the CDC has reported that additional Caribbean destinations have reported ongoing transmission of Zika as well as Central and South America. The outbreak began in Brazil in May.

According to Puerto Rico's Secretary of Health, Ana Rius, as of the date of this statement, there are 18 confirmed cases in Puerto Rico but **none** involve pregnant women. Puerto Rico epidemiologist Brenda Rivera said Tuesday the majority of cases are in the island's southeast region. She says many of the victims are **elderly. San Juan is not near that region.**

The CDC continues to recommend that travelers to affected areas in South America, Central America, the Caribbean, or Mexico protect themselves from mosquito bites.

Special interim recommendations for pregnant women have been addressed by the CDC who state to consider postponing travel to any area where Zika virus transmission is ongoing, but if you must travel to one of these areas, talk to your doctor first and strictly follow steps to prevent mosquito bites during your trip.

The Caribbean Public Health Agency, in collaboration with the Caribbean Tourism Organization and the Caribbean Hotel and Tourism Association (CHTA), has issued guidelines for hotels and guesthouses in the Caribbean to help prevent and prepare for the Zika virus. Please contact your individual hotel for the status of their preparation.

The disease for most travelers is usually mild with symptoms lasting from days to a week. Serious illness is not common and deaths from the disease are rare.

Meet Puerto Rico's first concern is for the health and well-being of our partners and visitors. We recommend that all information be reviewed in order to make an educated decision.