

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>

Disclaimer: These materials are for instructional use only and are not intended as a substitute for professional legal or other advice. Always seek the advice of an attorney or other qualified professional with any questions you may have regarding a legal matter.