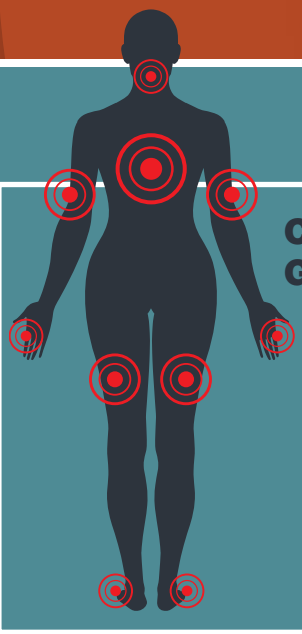
ZIKA Response from the Puerto Rico Department of Health and CDC

GUILLAIN-BARRÉ Passive Surveillance System

Guillain-Barré syndrome (GBS) is a rare condition that affects a person s immune system by damaging the nerves, causing muscle weakness or paralysis. Recently, countries affected by Zika virus have reported an increase in cases of GBS. The Puerto Rico Department of Health is preparing for a possible increase of patients with GBS as transmission of Zika virus increases.

GBS surveillance will help to detect increases of GBS cases and guide public health officials to take quick public health action.



Common signs and symptoms of GBS include:

- **Numbness or tingling** in the arms or legs
- **Weakness or pain** in the **arms or the legs** on both sides of the body
- **Diminished** or **absent reflexes**
- **Difficulty breathing** or shortness of breath
- **Difficulty walking, speaking, chewing, and swallowing**

Does the patient have signs or symptoms consistent with GBS?

Yes

Order Zika, dengue, and chikungunya virus testing

Does the patient have signs or symptoms of another neurologic condition, such as encephalitis or myelitis, with an acute antecedent illness?

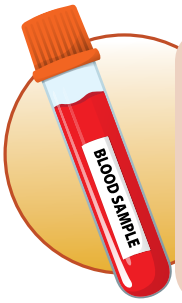
Yes

Fill out the Guillain-Barré Syndrome Case Report Form

Complete the form with the patient's information, including residential address, name of the hospital and health provider, neurologic signs and symptoms, and any illnesses reported by the patient in the last 2 months.

If the case is not GBS, write the name of the other neurologic condition at the top of the form.

Contact the GBS team by email at GBS@salud.pr.gov or call at 787-692-2776



Send the form AND a serum sample to the Department of Health

In addition to serum, other samples can be sent for testing, including saliva, cerebrospinal fluid (CSF), whole blood, and urine.

If possible, samples should be collected prior to starting treatment.

U.S. Department of Health and Human Ser isease Control and Prevention

Estado Libre Asociado de Puerto Rico
Departamento de Salud

For more information and to **download the form**, visit www.salud.gov.pr

CS 268812-A August 19, 2016