



GRENADA RECORDS SECOND CASE OF ZIKA VIRAL INFECTION PRESS RELEASE

ST. GEORGE'S, GRENADA, MAY 18, 2016 --: A second case of Zika viral infection has been confirmed by Grenadian health authorities the Ministry of Health disclosed on Wednesday.



The virus was discovered in samples sent to both St. George's University and the Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA) late last week, although definite confirmation from the region's accredited laboratory was received late Tuesday evening.

The case in point is a 50-year-old St. Andrew's resident. The Ministry of Health has mounted a robust and aggressive response by undertaking prescribed measures to locate and destroy the adult *Aedes Aegypti* Mosquito and its breeding sites in the area where the suspected now confirmed case was reported.

However, while the Ministry will continue to play the lead role in the national response, public health officials say there is greater need for individuals to play their part and take their responsibility seriously by getting rid of possible mosquito breeding sites if the spread of the viral infection is to be limited.

With the rainy season now on us public health officials are warning that there could be high mosquito infestation, if individuals, families and communities fail to undertake the primary and most effective measure to avert potential problems by reducing mosquito breeding sites.

Meanwhile in-keeping with the standard protocols, all suspected samples will be sent to CARPHA accredited laboratory for official confirmation although the MOH through SGU/WINDREF has secured another mobile laboratory that can undertake the testing of suspected samples.

Only last Friday, the Ministry of Health through the Vector Control and Health Promotion Departments held a successful public-health education drive in Grenville, St. Andrew to mark Mosquito Awareness Week – 2016.

Residents of St. Andrew's, business operators, students and passers-by participated in the activity and engaged public health officials on various matters that surrounds mosquito breeding, control and prevention.

A 27 year-old female non-Grenadian was diagnosed as the island's first, with the mosquito related illness.

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