



CARLOS A. GIMENEZ

MAYOR
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

September 27, 2016

Honorable Celeste Philip, MD, MPH
Surgeon General and Secretary
State of Florida
Florida Department of Health
4052 Bald Cypress Way
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Dr. Philip:

On Friday, September 23, 2016, the Florida Department of Health released a statement to the Miami Herald that "at no time did the Florida Department of Health instruct Miami-Dade County to withhold the location of mosquito traps" and that disclosure of the locations of positive traps is "solely the decision of the County." This statement directly conflicts with multiple prior meetings, phone calls, and conversations in which Florida Department of Health officials explicitly stated to officials of Miami-Dade County and other governmental entities that information identifying the addresses of traps containing mosquitos positive for the Zika virus was confidential during active, ongoing epidemiological investigations. This statement also clearly contradicts statements made by Dr. Lillian Rivera, Administrator/Health Officer for the Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County, during a press availability on September 1, 2016 regarding the findings of the first pool of positive mosquitos.

A total of 5 traps which contained a pool of mosquitos that tested positive for the Zika virus have been identified:

- On August 22, 2016, one pool tested positive from a single location. Since then, 27 pools have been tested from that location, all of which have been negative.
- On August 23, 2016, one pool each from two additional and different locations tested positive. Since then, 45 pools from those locations combined have been tested, all of which have been negative.
- On September 4, 2016, a pool from another single location tested positive. Since then, 17 pools have been tested from that location, all of which have been negative.
- On September 9, 2016, a pool from a different single location tested positive. Since then, 10 pools from that location have been tested, all of which have been negative.

It is our understanding that the Florida Department of Health conducted outreach and education to these neighborhoods. While maintaining the confidentiality requested by the Florida Department of Health, Miami-Dade County completed the approved inspection and treatment protocols established with the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

If the Florida Department of Health wants Miami-Dade County to continue to keep the locations of the positive traps confidential as previously instructed for any purpose, including, but not limited to, active, ongoing epidemiological investigations, then please notify me in writing by 5 p.m. on September 28, 2016.

If I receive no such communication, then Miami-Dade County will proceed to release the locations of the traps that have previously contained a mosquito pool that tested positive for the Zika virus, and will, in the future, disclose the locations of any such traps to the property owner and any interested party. Miami-Dade County does not have any information indicating that the locations of the positive pool traps are tied to patient information. That information is in the possession of the Florida Department of Health.

Again, the County has maintained the confidentiality of these locations based solely on the prior and repeated instructions from the Florida Department of Health.

Sincerely,



Carlos A. Gimenez
Mayor

- c: Honorable Adam H. Putnam Commissioner of Agriculture
Honorable Chairman Jean Monestime
and Members, Board of County Commissioners
Honorable Phillip Levine Mayor, City of Miami Beach
Dr. Lillian Rivera, RN, MSN, PhD, Administrator/Health Officer, Florida Department
of Health in Miami-Dade County
Abigail Price-Williams, County Attorney
Alina T. Hudak, Deputy Mayor, Office of the Mayor