

ONE HUNDRED FOURTEENTH CONGRESS  
**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE

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April 4, 2016

Dr. Thomas R. Frieden  
Director  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
1600 Clifton Road  
Atlanta, GA 30333

Dear Dr. Frieden:

Thank you for appearing before the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations on Wednesday, March 2, 2016, to testify at the hearing entitled "Examining the U.S. Public Health Response to the Zika Virus."

Pursuant to the Rules of the Committee on Energy and Commerce, the hearing record remains open for ten business days to permit Members to submit additional questions for the record, which are attached. The format of your responses to these questions should be as follows: (1) the name of the Member whose question you are addressing, (2) the complete text of the question you are addressing in bold, and (3) your answer to that question in plain text.

To facilitate the printing of the hearing record, please respond to these questions with a transmittal letter by the close of business on Monday, April 18, 2016. Your responses should be mailed to Giulia Giannangeli, Legislative Clerk, Committee on Energy and Commerce, 2125 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515 and e-mailed in Word format to [Giulia.Giannangeli@mail.house.gov](mailto:Giulia.Giannangeli@mail.house.gov).

Thank you again for your time and effort preparing and delivering testimony before the Subcommittee.

Sincerely,

  
Tim Murphy  
Chairman

Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations

cc: Diana DeGette, Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations

Attachment

## Attachment—Additional Questions for the Record

### The Honorable Michael C. Burgess, M.D.

1. Please describe the process by which state and local public health departments can access funds from the Public Health Emergency Response grant for their Zika virus preparedness and response efforts.
2. Some preliminary analyses of previous Zika virus outbreaks are being cited as showing a positive correlation between Zika and microcephaly. Since dengue and chikungunya are arboviruses closely related to Zika, share similar symptoms, and are co-circulating in South America, is it possible that dengue or chikungunya have similar effects during pregnancy? Is CDC undertaking similar analyses of historic dengue and chikungunya outbreaks and corresponding rates of microcephaly?
3. The CDC has reported that the Zika virus can be transmitted through mosquito bites, from mother to child, through sexual contact, and through blood transfusion. How many cases of sexual transmission is the CDC aware of? Is Zika being treated like other blood-borne pathogens?
4. It is estimated that the viremic period for Zika is 7 to 10 days – is this the only time that a human can transmit the virus? For those who test positive for Zika, what procedures are in place to prohibit further transmission? Are they placed in quarantine?
5. The 2016 Olympics are being hosted in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, this August. Brazil has seen the largest number of Zika cases during this outbreak. What plans are being put in place to protect the half-a-million athletes and spectators who will travel to Rio for the Olympics?

### The Honorable Gus Bilirakis and The Honorable Morgan Griffith

1. You have previously stated that genetically modified mosquitoes have been shown to successfully reduce the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito population by 90% in trials of up to 5,000 people. The technology has been tested in southern Brazil, Panama, the Cayman Islands, and Malaysia and has suppressed the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito population more than 90 percent.
  - a. How is your agency assisting the company that developed this novel technology?
2. In previous hearings, vector control has been described as “expensive and complicated.” From what I understand, that is not the case with regard to genetically engineered mosquitoes. Releasing mosquitoes out the window of a van seems easier than spraying insecticides door to door throughout a city.
  - a. Have you reviewed the details of both the implementation and cost of genetically engineered mosquitoes? What are you doing to make this technology more affordable and accessible in the way that you are working to make vaccines and

diagnostics more affordable and accessible? I ask this question because you have stated that in addition to the creation of diagnostics, the U.S. Public Health response will include both vaccine development and vector control.

3. The President's emergency supplemental for the U.S. response to the Zika virus includes \$8 million in funding to the International Atomic Energy Agency in order to "implement sterile insect projects that help suppress mosquito populations."
  - a. Why wouldn't the U.S. government want to direct all or part of this funding or even additional funding to a technology that is available today and that has already proven capable of suppressing the mosquito that carries viruses such as Zika and dengue?
4. You stated that the issue of scalability, with regard to genetically modified mosquitoes, could be a challenge because the *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes don't fly very far, therefore millions upon millions of GM mosquitoes may need to be released every short distance in order to reduce the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito population. You also said that this species of mosquito is tricky and that even when we've seen very large "knock downs" in mosquito population, CDC hasn't necessarily seen commensurate reductions in human infections. Could you elaborate on this? Have you talked directly to the company manufacturing the GM mosquitoes regarding these concerns and if not, would you be willing to do so in the near future?

**The Honorable Yvette D. Clarke**

1. We know that abroad, some governments have instructed women to delay pregnancy, which is unacceptable without expanded reproductive health services. As the Zika outbreak continues to evolve, we are learning that the disease may be sexually transmitted as well. What specific education and prevention efforts, such as comprehensive sex education and access to contraception, are in place to ensure that Americans are aware of possible sexual transmission of the Zika virus and have access to information and services to make reproductive health choices?