Dear Colleagues,

UCSF Health is continuing to closely monitor the Zika virus epidemic. On January 15\textsuperscript{th}, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) issued a health advisory in response to clusters of microcephaly possibly related to the mosquito-borne virus including travel guidance for pregnant women. On February 1\textsuperscript{st}, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared Zika virus a public health emergency of international concern to improve surveillance and mosquito control and expedite development of diagnostic tests and vaccines.

To date, the UCSF response to Zika virus has included the following:

1. **OB/Gyn Response:** Prenatal care providers have begun screening pregnant patients for travel to affected areas during pregnancy. Patients who may have been exposed and who had symptoms consistent with Zika virus infection have been offered serologic testing. Other women who were potentially exposed, but had no symptoms of Zika virus infection have been given the opportunity to have serial ultrasounds to evaluate fetal growth after counseling about the limitations of ultrasound and the inability to accurately know when fetal growth changes may be expected after a Zika virus infection.

   In light of changes to CDC guidelines released February 5\textsuperscript{th}, 2016, any pregnant woman who was possibly exposed will be offered serologic testing in the coming weeks after counseling about the limitations in diagnosis and a lack of ability to determine the probability of fetal effects even among women who test positive for exposure.

   Additionally, pregnant women will be advised to avoid sexual contact with male partners who may have been exposed for the duration of pregnancy, or use latex condoms, which are presumed to reduce the risk of transmission of the virus. At this time, transmission from an infected female partner has not been reported.

   For our currently pregnant patients (and those women who are considering pregnancy in the near future) who are, understandably, extremely anxious about the possibility of exposures that have already occurred as well as the potential for spread to the United States in the coming months, we continue to explain that the effects of Zika virus on fetuses is not clear. Furthermore, it is very likely that even women who were infected with Zika virus have a potential to have a healthy pregnancy, although careful ongoing investigation is needed.

2. **Infectious Disease Response:** The Division of Infectious Diseases has been working closely with our public health colleagues at San Francisco Department of Public Health (SFDPH) and California Department of Public Health to evaluate and facilitate patient testing when appropriate. Please contact the Pediatric or Adult Infectious Diseases Consult service for questions regarding diagnostic testing.

3. **Research Response:** A number of investigators at UCSF are conducting or planning to conduct clinical and basic research on Zika virus, as follows:
   a. Dr. Raul Andino, Department of Biochemistry (Zika infection, replication and pathogenesis)
b. Dr. Charles Chiu, Department of Laboratory Medicine and Medicine / Infectious Diseases (diagnostic surveillance of arboviruses, including Zika virus; comparative genomic sequencing of Zika virus; transcriptome profiling of Zika infections; animal models of Zika)

c. Drs. Joseph DeRisi, Department of Biochemistry, and Michael Wilson, Department of Neurology (cell biology and neuropathogenesis of Zika virus; viral-protein array analysis of Zika virus)

d. Drs. Arnold Kriegstein, Department of Neurology and Jeremy Reiter, Department of Biochemistry (cellular mechanisms of Zika neuropathogenesis)

e. Drs. Marion Lanteri, Philip Norris, and Michael Busch, Blood Systems Research Institute (in vitro cell culture and animal models of Zika infection; blood transmission and screening of Zika virus; transcriptomics of human and animal Zika; pathogenesis in blood donors and obstetric cohorts)

The Zika virus situation continues to evolve rapidly. Zika virus resources can be found on the UCSF Hospital Epidemiology and Infection Control webpage at https://infectioncontrol.ucsfmedicalcenter.org/. Resources will be updated as new information becomes available.

Sincerely,

Charles Chiu, MD, Ph.D
Associate Professor, Laboratory Medicine and Medicine / Infectious Diseases
Director, UCSF-Abbott Viral Diagnostics and Discovery Center
Associate Director, UCSF Clinical Microbiology Laboratory

Catherine Liu, MD
Associate Professor, Division of Infectious Disease
Medical Director, Hospital Epidemiology and Infection Control

Kirsten Salmeen, MD
Assistant Professor, Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Sciences
Medical Director for Outpatient Obstetrical Services