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FM COMDT COGARD WASHINGTON DC//CG-112//
TO AIG 4905

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SUBJ: CARIBBEAN CHIKUNGUNYA UPDATE

1. Local transmission of chikungunya is being reported in several Caribbean countries. Chikungunya is an illness caused by a virus that spreads through mosquito bites. The most common symptoms of chikungunya are fever and joint pain. Other symptoms may include headache, muscle pain, joint swelling, or rash.
2. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends that travelers to the Caribbean protect themselves from mosquito bites. Additional information regarding chikungunya can be found on the CDC website - <http://www.cdc.gov/chikungunya/>.
3. Coast Guard healthcare personnel should remind Coast Guard personnel stationed or traveling to these areas of how to prevent mosquito bites:
 - a. Cover exposed skin by wearing long-sleeved shirts, long pants, and hats.
 - b. Use insect repellent containing DEET, picaridin, IR3535, and oil of lemon eucalyptus and para-menthane-diol products. Note: AFC-57 funds are not authorized for funding insect repellent for Coast Guard personnel unless the member is assigned to the PAL of the Health, Safety, Work-Life Service Center.
 - c. Use permethrin-treated clothing and gear (such as boots, pants, socks, and tents).
 - d. Stay and sleep in screened or air conditioned rooms.
4. The Armed Forces Health Surveillance Center (AFHSC) guidance on detecting and reporting cases of chikungunya is available on the AFHSC website - [http://www.afhsc.mil/documents/pubs/documents/Detecting\(UNDERSCORE\)and\(UNDERSCORE\)Reporting\(UNDERSCORE\)DoD\(UNDERSCORE\)Cases\(UNDERSCORE\)of\(UNDERSCORE\)Chikungunya\(UNDERSCORE\)25JUL2014.pdf](http://www.afhsc.mil/documents/pubs/documents/Detecting(UNDERSCORE)and(UNDERSCORE)Reporting(UNDERSCORE)DoD(UNDERSCORE)Cases(UNDERSCORE)of(UNDERSCORE)Chikungunya(UNDERSCORE)25JUL2014.pdf). Confirmed cases of chikungunya infection should be reported using the Disease Reporting System Internet (DRSi) as 'any other unusual condition', and include in the report clinical presentation, travel history, and hospital admission status/dates.
5. POC for related questions at COMDT (CG-1121) is CDR Gerald Taylor, 202-475-5211, [Gerald.N.Taylor\(AT\)uscg.mil](mailto:Gerald.N.Taylor(AT)uscg.mil).
6. CAPT Erica G. Schwartz, Chief, Health Services sends.
7. Internet release is authorized.

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