

## THE ZIKA VIRUS AND YOUR BUSINESS

MARCH 2, 2016

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#### Introductions

#### Agenda

- Zika Virus Background
- Insurance Considerations and Implications
- Crises and Organizational Resilience
- Planning for a Health Crisis
- Five Things You Can Do Right Now

#### **Speakers**



Christian Ryan Managing Director

- Marsh's US Gaming & Hospitality Practice Leader.
- Over 13 years of insurance and risk management consulting experience.
- Recognized as one of the country's leading real estate, gaming, and hospitality insurance brokers.



Chandra Seymour Senior Vice President

- Senior consultant for Marsh Risk Consulting's Reputational Risk & Crisis Management, Resiliency and Response Practice.
- Over 20 years of crisis management, business continuity, and emergency management experience.

#### Zika Virus Background Overview

- The outbreak began in Brazil last May and has spread across Latin America and the Caribbean.
- This is the first time the virus has appeared in the Western Hemisphere.
- The rapid spread through densely populated areas prompted the WHO to declare Zika an international public health emergency.
- WHO estimates there will be 4 million Zika-related cases in the Americas over the next year.
- The CDC has reported 107 travel-associated Zika cases in the US, 9 of which are pregnant women.
- On February 26, the CDC issued a travel advisory that women who are pregnant "consider not going to the Olympics."
- The Obama administration has asked Congress for \$1.8 billion to respond to the virus.

#### Zika Virus Background Virus Overview

- Zika virus is transmitted to people primarily through the bite of an infected Aedes species mosquito.
- The virus can also be transmitted from:
  - A pregnant mother to her fetus during pregnancy.
  - Sexual contact.
  - Blood transfusions.
- 1 in 5 people infected become ill with mild flu-like symptoms.
- Incubation period: 2 to 7 days.
- Complications:
  - Microcephaly in newborns.
  - Patients developing Guillain-Barre syndrome.



## Zika Virus Background Fiction vs Fact

#### **Fiction**

 This is the first time the virus has been identified.

- It is easy to diagnose.
- The virus is treatable.
- If you don't show symptoms, you haven't been infected.

#### **Fact**

- The virus was first identified in Uganda in 1952, but has not previously been found in the Western Hemisphere.
- A Zika virus diagnosis can only be confirmed by laboratory testing.
- Symptoms may be treated, but there is currently no treatment or vaccine.
- Only 1 in 5 people infected with the virus show symptoms. It is not yet known if the virus can be sexually transmitted by non-symptomatic patients.

### Zika Virus Background Implications for Your Business

- The World Bank has estimated that the outbreak of the Zika virus will cost Latin American and the Caribbean region economies about \$3.5 billion.
- Organizations with global operations, especially hospitality, travel, tourism, and event-oriented ones, or that have employees who live in or are traveling to the Americas have heightened insurance and risk management concerns.
  - The CDC has recommended that pregnant women not attend the Olympics.
- Employees may refuse to work when there is an objectively "reasonable belief that there is imminent death or serious injury," according to OSHA.
  - Employees may refuse to work in Zika-impacted areas.
- OSHA will publish an interim guide on how businesses can protect workers from occupational exposure to the Zika virus this spring.

# INSURANCE CONSIDERATIONS AND IMPLICATIONS

## Insurance Considerations and Implications How Coverage Applies

**Risk:** Loss of income due to outbreak.

**Solution:** Property coverage.

- Loss of attraction:
  - Provides business interruption insurance for infectious diseases.
- Manuscript coverage and provides limited coverage.
- Special event cancellation coverage.

## Insurance Considerations and Implications How Coverage Applies

**Risk:** Employees travel to impacted areas and contract the Zika virus.

Solution: Workers' compensation.

- Foreign voluntary workers' compensation:
  - Coverage for employees traveling abroad.
- Domestic workers' compensation:
  - Coverage for employees during an outbreak that occurs in the US.

## Insurance Considerations and Implications How Coverage Applies

**Risk:** Guests contract Zika in the impacted areas.

**Solution:** General liability.

- Foreign general liability:
  - Coverage for 3<sup>rd</sup> party claims arising from insureds' negligence outside the US.
- Domestic general liability:
  - Coverage for 3<sup>rd</sup> party claims during an outbreak that occurs in the US.

## Insurance Considerations and Implications What You Can Do to Prepare

- Review your policies with your current broker.
- Understand the types of claims and what coverage would apply.
- Closely track the costs associated that can be incorporated into potential claims.

## CRISES AND ORGANIZATIONAL RESILIENCE

### Importance of Managing Crises







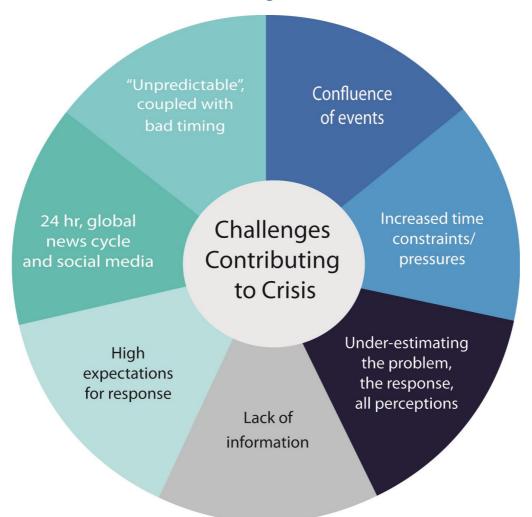
- In almost every significant event or crisis, the perceived effectiveness of your organization's response is equally or more important than the event.
- Damage to your operation and reputation from a poorly managed crisis can last years and is sometimes unrecoverable.







## Why Are Crises So Difficult to Manage?



- Crisis, by definition, isn't business as usual.
- Process and planning can reduce chaos during a crisis situation.

## Planning and Preparation for Health Crises Has Evolved

#### **Lessons Learned**

- Pandemic only.
- Infectious diseasespecific planning.
- Narrowly-defined escalation criteria.
- Origination of the virus pre-defined.
- Public fear.

### **Refined Approach**

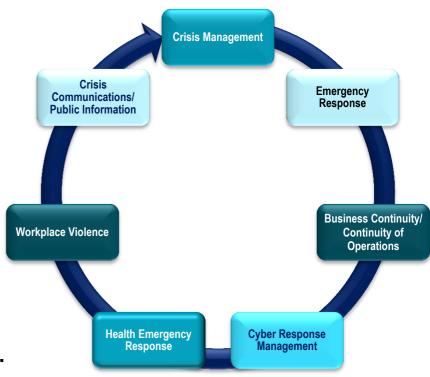
- Broader approach to planning.
  - Not just pandemic any more (Ebola, SARs, H1N1, Zika, etc.)
- The Center for Disease Control (CDC) and World Health Organization (WHO) redefined escalation criteria. Organizations are building on that approach by including the consideration of potential impacts to operations.
- Sources of infection, symptoms, and timeline for transmission can be different in each health crisis.
- Organizations must be able to ramp up response very quickly, which is critical to reinforce the facts.

## How Do We Build a Resilient Organization?

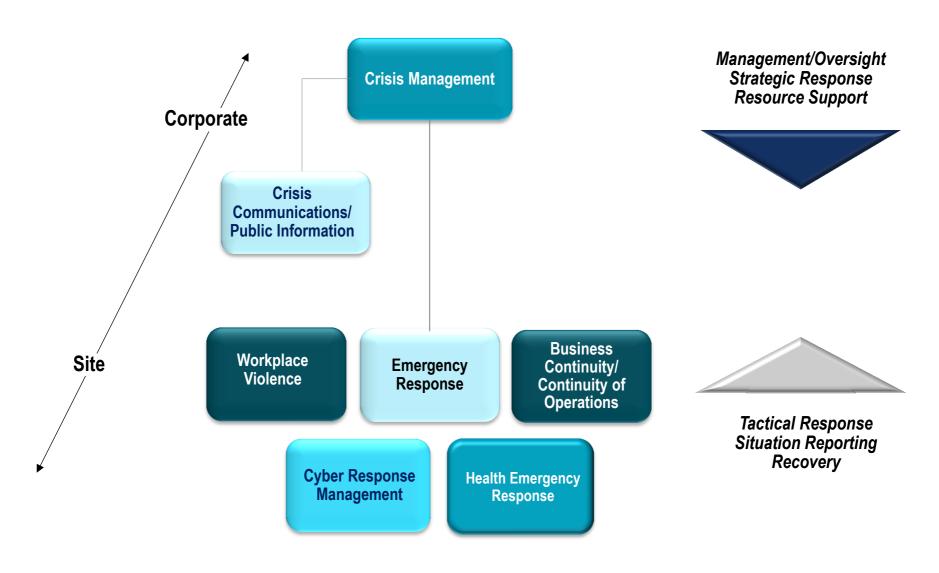
An overarching program ensures and maintains a well-aligned response and proactive management capability, including plans and teams.

#### **Characteristics:**

- Provide an overall view of an organization's response capabilities.
- Encompass a full range of risks and vulnerabilities.
- Establish program governance (e.g., policy, standards, and guidance).
- Define an overall response structure, teams, clear processes, and linkages.
- Promote readiness at all levels and focuses on maintaining capability.
- Establish alignment among all functions.



## Sample Organizational Response Structure



## WHY PLAN FOR A HEALTH CRISIS?

## Why Plan For Health Crises?

#### There are unique risks and potential impacts:

- Public concern and fear.
- High absenteeism could potentially reduced workforce.
- Broad community threats at home and abroad.
- Changing business and operational requirements.



"First Zika virus case identified in

– Dayton Daily News

"CDC Investigating 14 New Reports of Zika Transmission Through Sex"

New York Times

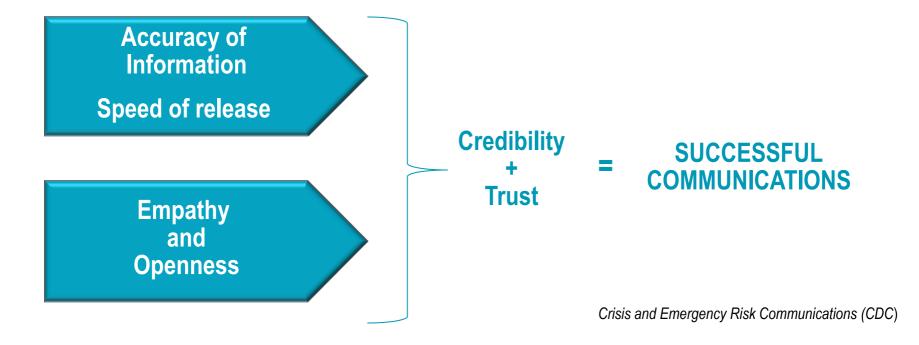
## Key Policy Decisions and Considerations

- Operationalize recommendations from health officials and agencies:
  - Who will decide what it means for your organization?
  - What additional sources will you leverage?
  - How will policies be implemented?
- Topics to consider:
  - Employee travel to impacted areas.
  - Employees working in impacted areas.
  - Distribution of insect repellants, netting, etc.
- During an outbreak:
  - Mosquito bite prevention guidelines for travelers:
    - Clothing, repellants, netting.
  - Sick leave: Employees and family care.
  - Working from home.



#### **Crisis Communications**

- The process for communicating proactively with all internal and external audiences and stakeholders during an adverse event or issue.
- Supports overall response strategies including protecting the reputation.



### Communicate, Communicate, Communicate

- Plan to communicate early and often to your employees, customers, visitors, and key stakeholders.
- Awareness and facts will alleviate fears, uncertainty, and reassure stakeholders that you have a plan.
  - Listen to stakeholder concerns and issues.
  - Obtain information from credible sources (e.g., CDC, WHO, Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), etc.).
- Define or set parameters around when and how you will adjust and increase communications.



## WHAT YOU CAN DO RIGHT NOW

#### **Five Considerations**

- 1. Review company policies.
- 2. Provide employees with awareness information.
- 3. Review and update methods for providing information to employees.
- Address potential business continuity, crisis management, and crisis communications requirements.
- 5. Review your organization's overall response structure.



## 1. Review Company Policies

- Employee travel to impacted areas:
  - Consider travel restrictions for those with the virus and for employees travelling to areas impacted by virus.
- Medical screening.
- Sick leave and family leave to care for sick loved ones.
- Work from home.
- Health support including:
  - Insect repellants.
  - Netting.
  - Other preventative options.



## 2. Provide Employees With Awareness Information

#### General tips:

- Cover exposed skin by wearing long-sleeved shirts, long pants, socks, and shoes. If possible, use permethrin-treated clothing and gear.
- Use repellants containing DEET, picaridin oil of lemon eucalyptus (OLE), or IR3535. Always use as directed.
- Encourage employees to visit credible websites and sources to obtain up-to-date information:
  - Center for Disease Control <u>www.cdc.gov</u>.
  - World Health Organization <u>www.who.int</u>.
  - Pan American Health Organization <u>www.paho.org</u>.
  - Local and County Health Authorities.



## 3. Review and Update Methods for Providing Information to Employees

- Information about the threat and status of operations within your organization.
- Methods to consider for disseminating information to employees:
  - Employee emails.
  - Intranet site.
  - Lunchroom boards.
  - Lunch-n-learns.
  - Department meetings.
  - Mass notification system.
- Messaging should always include references back to key sources (e.g., CDC, WHO, PAHO, local health authorities, etc.).



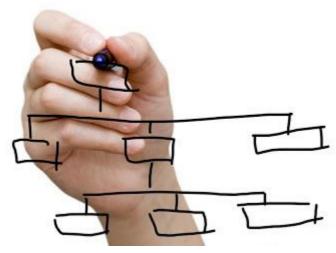
## 4. Address Potential Business Continuity, Crisis Management, and Crisis Communications Requirements

- Keep vital operations going by including ways to minimize exposure to and the spread of illness in the workplace.
- Some continuity options may include:
  - Operating with a reduced workforce.
  - Reducing production and/or delivery of services.
  - Considering third-party agreements for services and supplies.
- Consider updating (or developing) a crisis management plan and strategy to be implemented during an actual crisis.
  - Ensure the plan incorporates your crisis communications strategy.



## 5. Review Your Organization's Overall Response Structure

- Ensure your organization is capable of managing a health emergency including:
  - Implementing multiple business continuity, response, crisis management, and crisis communications plans.
  - Adjusting to a major increase in the number of employees working from home or unable to work.
  - Addressing impacts to business strategy and operations due to substantial changes to the marketplace and supply chain.



### Always Remember

- A health crisis, by definition, is not operations as usual.
- Planning and formalizing processes can help reduce chaos.
- Practice, practice, and more practice. Exercise your plans and protocols.



"By failing to prepare, you are preparing to fail."

— Benjamin Franklin

#### For More Information

If you're interested in learning more about how your company can prepare, contact us at:



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#### **Resources on Marsh.com:**

- A Global Health Emergency: 5 Steps to Address the Zika Virus Outbreak
- Concerned About the Zika Virus? Here's What You Need to Know



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