



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact: Tiffani Helberg, VP for Communications

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Office: (305) 252-4854

thelberg@chisouthfl.org

ZIKA THREATENS FARM WORKERS, MIGRANT POPULATION

Florida City- The Zika virus is particularly a concern for the farm worker and migrant population here in South Florida. Many of them don't have the resources to be able to adequately protect themselves and most live and work in some of the most vulnerable conditions for mosquito bites.

As they tend to our farms, fields, nurseries and greenhouses locally, there is a lot of standing water in the fields and in pots. This is a breeding ground for mosquitoes. In addition some work extremely early hours. Such as those who pick okra begin working in the fields, at 3 or 4am. Beyond these challenges, the population of farm workers and migrants has misconceptions about why they don't want to use repellants and the additional challenges of historically not going to the doctor when they are sick.

That's why Community Health of South Florida Inc. (CHI) is partnering with the Farm Workers Association to address these concerns and help educate farm workers and the migrant population about protecting themselves from the Zika virus.

"Many migrants can't afford to miss a day of work if they are sick, no matter how serious," said Dr. Linda Zambrana, from CHI. "That is why CHI has a migrant program to hold office hours when it is convenient for farm workers to come to the doctor, we don't turn anyone away regardless of ability to pay or immigration status. There should be no barrier to healthcare."

CHI and the Farm Worker Association of Florida are joining forces to do outreach and education in the community. They will be handing out mosquito repellent at the news conference on Sept. 1, 2016 to farm workers at the Farm Worker Association, 450 Davis Parkway, Florida City, FL 33024. The repellent is courtesy of AmeriCares.

“We are also going to be discussing how to make natural repellents,” said Elivira Cavajal, Organizer for Farm Worker Association of Florida. “Many tell us they don’t like the smell of repellents or don’t trust them. So we want to show them how they can make some cheap home repellents to protect themselves and their families.”

The news conference will be in Spanish and English.

Sept. 1, 2016 at 10am at the Farm Worker Association of Florida 450 Davis Parkway, Florida City FL 33024

Farm Worker Association leadership will join CHI doctors to address migrant and farm workers and hand out mosquito repellent courtesy of AmeriCares.

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For more information contact Tiffani Helberg VP for Communications and Development at thelberg@chisouthfl.org