



Zika in Republic of the Marshall Islands, 2015-2016



Report Date: April 20th, 2016

Outbreak Overview

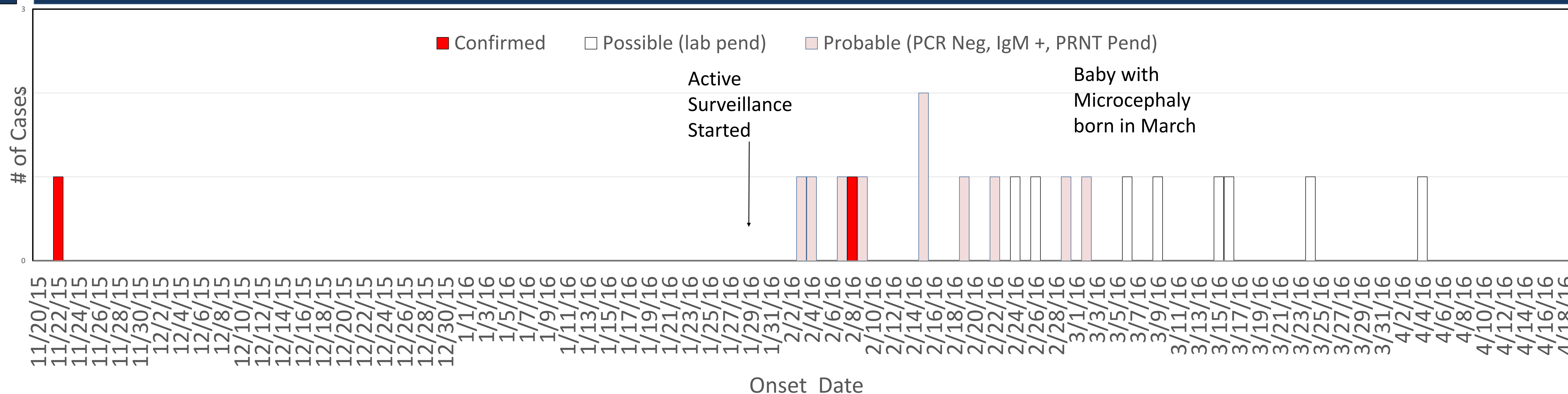
Outbreak came to the attention of RMI Ministry of Health in late January, with report of a traveler who was ill in November after a 3 week stay in Majuro and later testing in Australia. 34 met case definition since expanded surveillance for Zika begun Jan 29. Two new possible cases in past 25 days and none in past week. Out of the 34 suspect cases: 6 pregnant ladies, 1 pos PCR (index case), 1 neg PCR but positive Igm. 2 delivered (babies did not meet the microencephaly criteria). And 2 pregnant mothers are still waiting for Igm testing. There may or may not be ongoing low-level transmission of Zika virus on Majuro. One infant born with microcephaly to a woman with + Zika IgM test via US.

Case Definition:

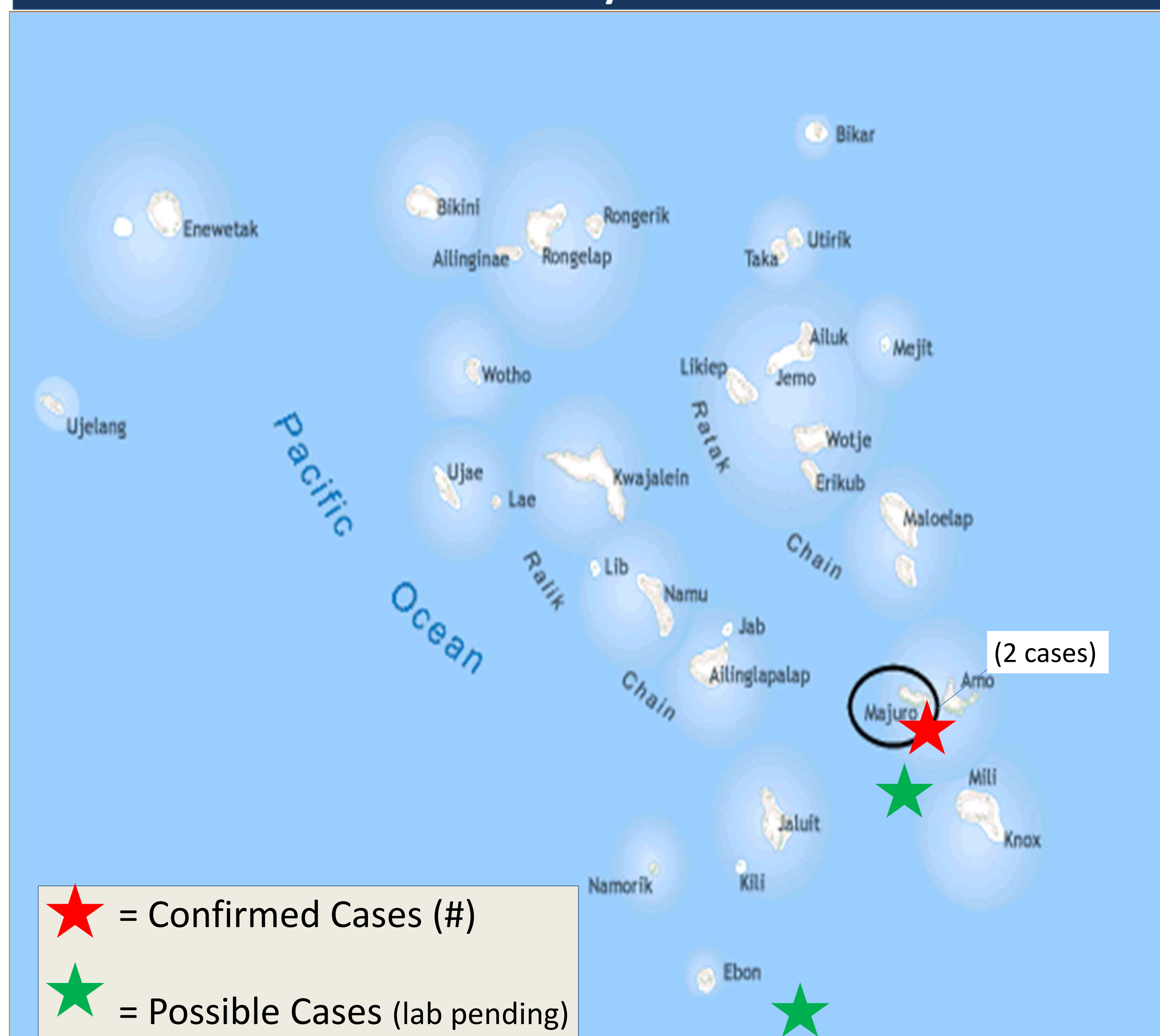
Possible: Rash OR Fever AND any two: Pain behind eyes, conjunctivitis, body aches, edema of hands or feet.

Confirmed: Meets Possible case definition plus positive lab test (Zika PCR, IgM or serial IgG) test

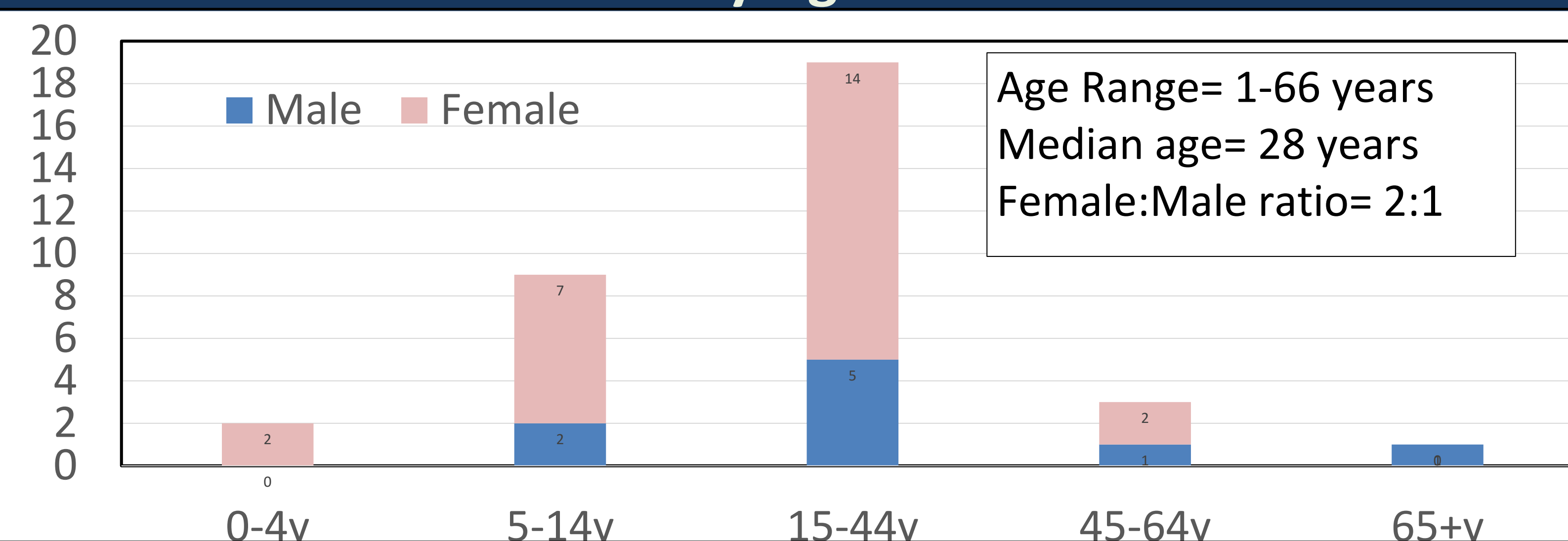
Possible Cases (Zika not ruled out by labs) by Date of Onset



Cases by Atoll



Cases by Age & Sex



Lab Testing

Index Case: (11-22-15) Zika IgM+, IgG+ (Too late for PCR; Chik, Dengue IgG, IgM Neg).
 Since Jan 29, 2016:

- PCR Testing: 1+, 22 Neg, 11 Pending
- Igm Testing: 10+, 14 Neg, 10 pending

Collection of mosquitos in March to US DOD Lab in Japan for Zika and other arboviruses

Response Measures

Declaration of Health Emergency: by President Heine on Feb 29th → Health and Sanitation Teams established

Disease Surveillance: Expanded case finding since Jan 29th, 2016; and since for infant microcephaly and neuro damage

Outreach: Household visits in Majuro- screening for pregnant women and key messages completed. Flyers and screening of travelers to outer islands

Health Promotion: An interview with the entomologist about spraying for Zika aired on the government radio station. A mass text message was sent to residents throughout Marjuro to alert residents about spraying. Principles and parents of students were notified about the school spraying. A press release about the risk to pregnant women was published in the newspaper.

Vector Control: Intensive Majuro clean-ups occur each Thursday and Friday. Spraying pregnant women's houses and schools began in the most densely populated zone on 4/13/2016. Zika kits are being distributed to all the pregnant women during spraying.

Gaps:

Barriers for a rapid response include the process of purchase orders and purchase requests. No changes have been made to this process.

The President's declaration has expired and needs renewal in order to continue the MALGOV and MAWC village clean-up.

Paying staff for overtime hours remains a barrier.

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Special thanks to: dedicated work of EPA, MalGov, Public Works and MOH staff and excellent on-site TA from WHO (Dr Devika Perera), US CDC (Janet Scott, Joe Vitale), US ASPR (Brad Austin), US DOD (Capt Scotty Long), HI Public Health Lab