

Costs of Zika fight rise to nearly \$30M in Miami-Dade County

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Miami-Dade County plans to hire a full-time entomologist in its increasingly costly fight against the Zika virus.

The Miami Herald reports the county's budget to combat the mosquito-borne virus is nearing \$30 million. That figure is based on a contracting request the Miami-Dade County Commission approved Tuesday.

A spokesman for County Mayor Carlos Gimenez says the county has spent about \$25 million since June 2016. The request includes additional costs the county will ask the state to cover.

A Zika outbreak in Miami's Wynwood arts district last year was the first on the U.S. mainland and lingered more than a month.

Gimenez told commissioners the county conducted nearly 51,000 mosquito inspections after the Zika infections were confirmed.

The latest request details \$5 million for insecticide, including larvae-killing tablets dropped into 150,000 [storm drains](#).

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