

Zika Laboratory Guidance Documents

All: Additional laboratory guidance documents are attached. As a reminder, please see the following:

- Both BPHL Jacksonville and Tampa offer Zika virus testing. Please submit to the laboratory designated in the BPHL FAQ document (same as you would ordinarily send suspect WNV samples to) unless directed otherwise.
- As our laboratory capacity permits, we will run dengue and chikungunya testing on suspect Zika fever cases if the patient was still in the acute illness phase and reported fever (not all Zika patients have fever). Our priority testing is for Zika virus. Dengue and chikungunya testing is fortunately also available at commercial laboratories if we receive a surge in Zika testing requests.
- While mentioned in the text of the CHD testing guidance and in the algorithms, the following was not clearly stated on the first page: Pregnant women who, while pregnant, **traveled to an area reporting Zika virus activity** regardless of the length of time since the travel/illness occurred, but ideally within 2-12 weeks of travel can also be tested. Asymptomatic pregnant women can be tested for Zika virus via the county health department if testing is recommended by the patient's health care provider; however, it is not necessary to report all asymptomatic pregnant women to DOH. As per standard protocol, the provider is responsible for arranging sample collection and shipment of the sample to our state public health laboratories to obtain free Zika virus testing.
- We greatly appreciate retrospective reporting of cases so we can identify any potentially exposed pregnant woman, ensure that pregnant women and their partners have guidance on preventing sexual transmission, alert our mosquito control partners, and get a better idea of where traveler "hot spots" might be. Of those reported retroactively, Zika virus testing is available for any pregnant woman and patients who providers determine that there is a medical need for testing (not fully recovered, sequela such as GBS, etc.). As per standard protocol, the provider is responsible for arranging sample collection and shipment of the sample to our state public health laboratories to obtain free Zika virus testing.
- Per the CDC guidance, testing of potentially exposed men to determine sexual transmission risk is not recommended as a single test may not provide a definitive answer to this question. Men with exposure risk who engage in sexual relations with a pregnant or possibly pregnant woman should consistently and correctly use a condom or consider abstaining through the pregnancy. As per standard protocol, the provider is responsible for arranging sample collection and shipment of the sample to our state public health laboratories to obtain free Zika virus testing.

Attachments:

1. Zika Testing FAQ Final
2. Laboratory Packaging and Shipping Guidance Document ZIKA 2016 Final

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