



County Health Department (CHD) Guidance on Testing Pregnant Women for Zika Virus Infection

Version 1.0 (August 15, 2016)

DOH: www.flhealth.gov/zika

CDC: www.cdc.gov/zika/

FloridaHealth.gov • Florida Department of Health

- Depending on their risk exposure history, specimens should be submitted to either the Bureau of Public Health Laboratories (BPHL) or LabCorp.
 - See attached “CHD: Algorithm for determining *where to submit specimens* from pregnant women for testing”.
- Florida CHDs offer testing for individuals who meet Florida Department of Health (DOH) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidance for testing including those that are uninsured, underinsured or otherwise cannot obtain testing through a commercial laboratory. To ensure disease reporting and a prompt mosquito control response, health care professionals are asked to notify their County Health Department (CHD) when Zika testing is ordered from a commercial laboratory or when they need assistance with Zika testing.

I. Pregnant women should be tested for Zika in accordance with the most current DOH and CDC guidance.

1. Assess for possible Zika virus exposure and evaluation for signs and symptoms of Zika virus disease.
 - Detailed testing guidance and algorithm is available at:
http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/65/wr/mm6529e1.htm?s_cid=mm6529e1_e
2. DOH guidance on testing pregnant women who live in or travel to areas of local active Zika virus transmission (currently, a limited area in the city of Miami)
http://www.floridahealth.gov/diseases-and-conditions/zika-virus/_documents/zika-testing-update-8-4-16-v14.pdf
 - Additional guidance is available in the August 1, 2016 CDC Health Advisory (CDCHAN-00393): <http://emergency.cdc.gov/han/han00393.asp>
3. Patients who meet the criteria established for CHD referral for testing may have samples obtained by their regular health care professional and submitted to BPHL through their local CHD.
 - a. Orders should be entered into HMS via electronic laboratory ordering (ELO)
 - b. Use of DH 1847. If the order is not placed via HMS, the provider should contact the CHD to receive a Merlin # for a Person Under Investigation (PUI) and record the Merlin # on the DH 1847 to indicate CHD approval.
 - Note: Specimens received by BPHL *without* a Merlin # on the DH 1847 will experience processing delays requiring laboratory staff to contact the appropriate CHD to ensure specimen approval for testing.
 - Additional guidance for entering PUIs in Merlin can be found in Zika Virus Infection: Reporting Guidance for CHDs
http://www.floridahealth.gov/diseases-and-conditions/disease-reporting-and-management/disease-reporting-and-surveillance/_documents/zika-reporting-guidelines-chd.pdf

II. Pregnant women *without* likely exposure to Zika virus

1. Pregnant women without exposure to Zika virus (e.g., no travel history to areas with active transmission, no sexual contact with a partner who lives in or traveled to an area with active transmission, etc.) and without symptoms of disease should be counseled on the risks and benefits of testing (e.g. false positives and negatives) and reassured that testing is unnecessary at the time.

- a. False positives in serology testing may be due to infection from another virus that is in the same family as Zika (e.g., Dengue virus). Thus, confirmatory testing by the CDC may be required and can take many weeks.
 - b. False negatives for PCR may be due to collecting the specimen after the relatively short window of viremia (e.g., < 2 weeks). Similarly, there is a window of detecting IgM antibodies and false negatives may occur due to collecting the specimen before or after that timeframe.
 - c. For details on interpretation of Zika virus antibody test results, see: <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/65/wr/mm6521e1.htm>
2. The woman should be counseled on how to prevent Zika virus infection and to seek testing if she becomes exposed in the future and/or develops symptoms of disease.
 3. If the pregnant woman insists on testing, then the CHD will provide it at no cost to the patient.
 - a. CHDs may require appointments to be made for testing, however they must be timely, within a week of the request.
 - b. Testing is available for all pregnant women who request a test regardless of residence.
 - c. There is no limit to the number of tests a pregnant woman can receive; and there is no requirement to verify pregnancy status.

III. Assessment questions – for all pregnant women to be tested

- Ask for symptoms within the last 14 days.
 - Collect information on at least one of the Zika specific symptoms: fever, rash, joint pain/arthritis, or reddened eyes/conjunctivitis, including date of onset
- Ask for travel history outside the continental US in the last 14 days up to 6 months.
 - Collect name of countries and US territories visited (US Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico) and if return to FL was 1) in the past 2 weeks – 6 months or 2) in the past 2 weeks.
 - Ask for travel history to the Wynwood area of Miami since June 15 or other areas of local transmission should those be declared.
- Ask for gestational age (in weeks) and anticipated due date.
- Responses to questions should be recorded on the paper DH 1847 or in HMS at the time the electronic laboratory order (ELO) is placed.

IV. Specimen collection

- **Collect BOTH specimens: Urine and Serum**
 1. **Urine** specimen (1-3ml).
 - a. Urine should be transferred to a sterile tube with a secure closure to prevent leakage in transport. Label tube as urine. Label with patient name.
 - i. An example of a preferred urine tube is the BD vacutainer urine collection tube, BD #364979, Fisher Scientific catalog #14-375-138.



- ii. Please *do not* submit urine in urine collection cups as these tend to leak during transport.



CHD: Algorithm for determining *where to submit specimens* from pregnant women for testing

PREGNANT WOMAN

