



Criteria for Obtaining Zika Virus Testing at the New Jersey Public Health and Environmental Laboratories (PHEL) *Updated November 22, 2019*

Clinicians should consult the latest CDC recommendations for Zika testing at www.cdc.gov/zika. Zika testing can be ordered through most commercial laboratories. This document provides current eligibility criteria and procedures for requesting testing for Zika virus at PHEL.

Eligible for testing at PHEL:

1. Symptomatic pregnant women who develop symptoms of Zika within 2 weeks of last exposure. Zika compatible symptoms include fever, rash, joint pain, and conjunctivitis. *Note: specimens should be collected within 2 weeks of illness onset.*
2. Pregnant women with fetal abnormalities suggestive of congenital Zika syndrome detected on ultrasound and instances of fetal loss or infant death where mother had Zika exposure.
3. Infants born to mothers with laboratory evidence of Zika virus infection, or infants with abnormalities suggestive of congenital Zika syndrome for whom there are maternal risk factors.

Notes:

- For asymptomatic pregnant women with recent travel to an area with risk of Zika (purple area on Zika Travel Recommendation Map) outside the U.S. and its territories, routine Zika testing is NOT routinely recommended. Clinicians may consider PCR testing at commercial laboratories. Testing at PHEL may be considered if there are extenuating circumstances.
- In the event a country reports an outbreak of Zika virus (red area on Zika Travel Recommendation Map), clinicians should follow the testing guidance in the June 2019 MMWR: Dengue and Zika virus diagnostic testing for patients with a clinically compatible illness and risk for infection with both viruses.

Procedure to Request Public Health Testing:

For eligible pregnant women: Providers should contact the local health department (LHD) where the patient resides. A directory of local health departments in New Jersey can be found at <http://localhealth.nj.gov>. Providers should fax a completed Zika Virus Patient Information Worksheet https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/documents/zika_patient_information_worksheet.pdf to the LHD to expedite testing requests.

Note: Placental/fetal tissue and amniotic fluid testing is only available upon consultation with the New Jersey Department of Health Communicable Disease Service (Phone: 609-826-5964 or e-mail CDS.ZikaTeam@doh.nj.gov).

If the patient meets eligibility criteria, the LHD will provide a PHEL SRD-1 specimen submission form and PHEL Technical Bulletin to the provider. The patient must bring the physician's test order/script and the approved SRD-1 form to a **hospital-based clinical laboratory** for specimen collection. Both serum and urine specimens are required. Test results

will be faxed to the provider (using the fax number on the SRD-1 form) and provided to the local health department through CDRSS. Providers can contact PHEL with questions on pending laboratory test results at zika.phel@doh.nj.gov or 609-530-8516. There is no charge for testing done through PHEL (although the hospital-based clinical laboratory may charge a drawing fee). If patients are not eligible for testing at PHEL, providers may consider testing through commercial laboratories. Patients who go to a commercial laboratory may be charged a fee, although Zika testing is covered by many health insurance plans.

For newborn testing at the time of delivery: Birthing hospitals should refer to the NJDOH Zika Delivery Packet for recommended assessments and/or testing requests. The packet can be found on the NJDOH Zika web page <https://nj.gov/health/cd/topics/zika.shtml> on the “Resources & References” sidebar under the heading “Pregnant Women and Infants.”

Additional Resources:

1. NEW CDC Zika and Dengue Testing Guidance (Updated November 2019): <https://www.cdc.gov/zika/hc-providers/testing-guidance.html>
2. June 2019 MMWR: [Dengue and Zika virus diagnostic testing for patients with a clinically compatible illness and risk for infection with both viruses](#)
3. Zika Travel Recommendation Map: <https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/page/zika-information>
4. NJDOH Zika Resources: <https://nj.gov/health/cd/topics/zika.shtml>