



## Public Health Testing for Zika Virus

### Zika Testing Recommendations

Healthcare providers should refer to CDC's [Clinical Testing and Diagnosis for Zika Virus Disease](#) for current testing recommendations. Diagnostic testing for Zika virus can be accomplished using both molecular and serologic methods. Zika and dengue virus share a similar global geographic distribution and cause infections with similar clinical presentations. Patients with suspected Zika virus infection also should be evaluated for possible dengue.

Zika testing can be ordered through most commercial laboratories, although placental/fetal tissue and amniotic fluid testing can only be performed at public health laboratories.

This document provides current eligibility criteria and procedures for requesting testing for Zika virus at the NJ Public Health and Environmental Laboratories (PHEL). Specimens will be accepted for testing only if they meet CDC's recommended testing guidelines. Specimens submitted to PHEL for Zika testing may also be tested for dengue and/or chikungunya virus and/or other arboviruses relevant to the clinical presentation and exposure history.

### Procedure to Request Public Health Testing:

#### **Requesting Zika Virus Testing at Public Health Laboratories**

For eligible patients, healthcare providers can request Zika Virus testing at PHEL by completing the Zika Virus Patient Information Worksheet [https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/documents/zika\\_patient\\_information\\_worksheet.pdf](https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/documents/zika_patient_information_worksheet.pdf) and sending it via encrypted email to [CDSVectorTeam@doh.nj.gov](mailto:CDSVectorTeam@doh.nj.gov).

If the patient meets eligibility criteria, the NJDOH Vector Team will determine the type of testing, based on CDC recommendations, that can be performed at PHEL and/or CDC, and the specimens required for testing. Depending on the patient's pregnancy status, clinical presentation, and exposure history, molecular and/or serological testing may be performed on serum and/or urine specimens, often in conjunction with dengue virus and chikungunya virus testing. Specialized testing can also be requested if eligibility criteria are met, for testing of placental and fetal tissue, amniotic fluid, and/or CSF.

NJDOH will work with the healthcare provider to submit a request for specified tests via the PHEL Electronic Test Ordering and Reporting (ETOR) Portal. Test results will be faxed from PHEL to the provider (using the fax number provided in ETOR) and provided to the local health department through the Communicable Disease Reporting and Surveillance System (CDRSS).

*Note: Healthcare providers should contact their local health department or the NJDOH Communicable Disease Service (Phone: 609-826-5964 or e-mail [CDSVectorTeam@doh.nj.gov](mailto:CDSVectorTeam@doh.nj.gov)) to discuss testing for infants and pregnant persons with fetal abnormalities suggestive of congenital Zika virus infection.*

### **Additional Resources:**

1. [CDC Clinical Testing and Diagnosis for Zika Virus Disease](#)
2. [Zika Travel Recommendation Map](#)
3. NJDOH Zika Resources: <https://nj.gov/health/cd/topics/zika.shtml>