

# 2016 DOHMH Advisory #47: Microcephaly Associated with Zika Virus

*Please share with your colleagues in Ob/Gyn and Family Medicine, Pediatrics, Infectious Disease, and Emergency Medicine:*

- **CDC has issued a Health Advisory on Recognizing, Managing, and Reporting Zika Virus Infections in Returning Travelers from Central America, South America, the Caribbean, and Mexico.**
- **CDC has also issued a Level 2 Travel Advisory for those same areas.**
- **Contact the New York City Provider Access Line (PAL) at 1-866-692-3641 for guidance on testing or to report suspect cases of Zika virus infection.**

**January 16, 2016**

**Dear Colleagues,**

Please read the accompanying CDC Health Advisory on Recognizing, Managing, and Reporting Zika Virus Infections in Travelers Returning from Central America, South America, the Caribbean and Mexico. See Map 1 below showing the currently affected countries as of January 15, 2016.

At this time, testing is not available through commercial laboratories and can only be done at select laboratories, including the New York State Department of Health's Wadsworth Center Laboratory and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Serum is the specimen of choice for testing for immunoglobulin M, neutralizing antibodies and RT-PCR. Healthcare providers wishing to test a patient for Zika virus should contact the NYC Health Department by calling the Provider Access Line (PAL) at 1-866-692-3641. Testing will only be considered for patients who present with compatible illness (as described above) and a history of travel to a Zika-affected country within 2 weeks of illness onset. Testing will also be available for infants diagnosed with microcephaly whose mothers were pregnant while in an area with ongoing Zika virus transmissions since the outbreak began in 2015. Testing is not available for asymptomatic patients or pregnant woman with a history of travel to an affected area.

Clinicians and laboratories must report all cases of all arboviral diseases (e.g. Zika, chikungunya, and dengue) to the NYC Health Department. Cases may be reported by telephone (866-692-3641.), mail (Bureau of Communicable Disease, 2 Gotham Center, CN# 22A, 42-09 28th Street, Queens, New York 11101-4132), or fax (347-396-2753) using the Universal Reporting form (URF), or the electronic URF. The URF and instructions may be downloaded from the Health Department website at <http://home2.nyc.gov/html/doh/html/hcp/hcp-urf.shtml>. Visit <http://home2.nyc.gov/html/doh/html/hcp/hcp.shtml> to join NYC-MED to submit a URF online.

As always, we appreciate your continued collaboration with our efforts to monitor for emerging infectious diseases in New York City.

**Sincerely,**

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Map 1.