

SPECIAL-REQUEST ZIKA VIRUS TESTING AT THE NYC PUBLIC HEALTH LAB

- Providers are encouraged to use commercial laboratories for routine Zika testing
- However, providers should request Zika testing through the NYC PHL in the following situations:
 - Day of delivery/fetal loss specimens (see below for details)
 - Infant specimens, when (a) the mother has laboratory evidence of Zika virus infection during pregnancy OR (b) there are clinical abnormalities concerning for possible congenital Zika syndrome, regardless of maternal Zika testing results
 - A person with Guillain-Barré syndrome or another neurologic manifestation and exposure to Zika virus
 - Any potential unusual mode of transmission (e.g. transfusion or organ transplantation)
 - Patient lacks insurance to cover indicated Zika testing.
- See [Instructions for Submission of Serum and Urine Specimens for Zika Virus Testing for NYC Residents](#) for guidance on specimen collection and handling.

For urgent matters, such as identifying an abnormal fetus/infant of an exposed woman, call 866-692-3641 at any time.

The NYC Health Department recommends using commercial laboratories for routine testing for Zika virus infection, including testing of pregnant women potentially exposed to Zika virus. A list of commercial laboratories that currently offer Zika testing is available at <http://www.nyc.gov/zika/provider>.

EXCEPTIONS: WHEN TO USE THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT FOR ZIKA TESTING

- Day of delivery/fetal loss specimens - Placental or fetal tissue(s), and infant serum and urine specimens collected at the time of delivery or fetal loss, when the mother has laboratory evidence of Zika virus infection during pregnancy (see [Zika Virus Testing for Live Births](#) and [Zika Virus Testing for Pregnancy Loss](#))
- Infant specimens, when (a) the mother has laboratory evidence of Zika virus infection during pregnancy OR (b) there are clinical abnormalities concerning for possible congenital Zika syndrome, regardless of maternal Zika testing results (see [Zika Virus Testing for Live Births](#))
- A person with Guillain-Barré syndrome or another neurologic manifestation and exposure to Zika virus (see [Zika Virus Testing for Suspected Guillain-Barré Syndrome](#))
- Any potential unusual mode of transmission (e.g. transfusion or organ transplantation)
- Patient lacks insurance to cover indicated Zika testing.
- To arrange for testing at the PHL, call 866-692-3641, Monday to Friday, 9 AM to 5 PM.

WHICH TESTS TO PERFORM

- **NAAT (serum and/or urine):** Nucleic acid amplification testing. Includes reverse transcription real time polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR), transcription mediated amplification (TMA), and other tests that detect Zika virus-specific RNA (nucleic acid) sequences. Best performed ≤ 14 days of illness onset.
- **Serology (serum):** Detects antibodies, non-specific for Zika. Detects exposure to flaviviruses.
- **PRNT (serum):** Plaque reduction neutralization test that requires paired serum specimens. Acute and convalescent. May discriminate among flaviviruses.

HOW TO INTERPRET TESTS

- Test result interpretation can be difficult. Call the Health Department at 866-692-3641 for assistance.

MORE INFORMATION

- DOHMH Zika provider site, with DOHMH guidance and FAQs: nyc.gov/health/provider/zika
- CDC Zika website: cdc.gov/zika