

(See below for non-business hours requests)

Call 866-692-3641, during business hours, Monday-Friday, 9:00AM-5:00PM, to obtain approval to test specimens collected for a patient with suspected Guillain-Barre Syndrome who recently traveled to a Zika-affected region

The New York City (NYC) Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH) may test specimens collected from patients with **BOTH** suspected Guillain-Barré Syndrome **AND** recent travel or unprotected sex with a partner with recent travel to a Zika-affected region.

WHAT TO DO

- During business hours, call the Provider Access Line at 866-692-3641 to discuss.
- During **non-business hours**, specimens may be collected, labeled and stored as outlined below.
- On the next business day, call the Provider Access Line at 866-692-3641 to discuss the case, obtain laboratory forms and arrange for transportation of specimens to the NYC Public Health Laboratory.
- All specimens must be labeled with **patient's name, date of birth, date and time of specimen collection** and **specimen type**.
- If specimens are approved for testing, DOHMH staff will work with health care providers to complete the required NYC Public Health Laboratory test request form for each specimen. DOHMH will e-mail/fax the completed forms during business hours to the provider. Each form should be paired with the correct corresponding specimen. Place the form on the outer pocket of the submission bag and the specimen inside the bag.
- Specimens should be frozen to -70°C. If no -70°C freezer is available, refrigerate at +4°C and transport on cold packs so that the Public Health laboratory receives it within 72 hours of collection.

WHAT TO COLLECT

1. Serum

- Collect two tubes of blood, 6 ml in each, in serum separator tubes and centrifuge. Transfer the serum using sterile technique to a separate tube.

2. Urine

- Collect a minimum volume of 5 ml, maximum of 20 ml in a sterile leak-proof container. Close tightly and seal with paraffin film.

3. CSF — If CSF is obtained for other studies, aliquot a sample for Zika testing.

- Collect in a sterile container a minimum of 1 cc of CSF. Close tightly and seal with paraffin film.