

Zika Virus Testing

Clinicians should maintain a high index of suspicion for Zika virus infection in travelers who return from a country where Zika virus is being transmitted. If a clinician encounters a patient who has traveled to a country where Zika virus transmission from mosquitoes is currently occurring and has developed symptoms within two weeks of being in the country suggestive of Zika virus infection (fever, rash, conjunctivitis, arthralgias, myalgias), testing can be done. There are no recommendations to test asymptomatic, **nonpregnant** persons for Zika virus. The testing is through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) via the Ohio Department of Health.

The CDC also has guidelines for testing for pregnant women who have traveled to a country where Zika virus transmission is ongoing. The February 5, 2016 updated guidelines are at http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/65/wr/mm6505e2er.htm?s_cid=mm6505e2er.htm_w

In Ohio, Zika virus is a legally mandated Class B reportable disease under the category of arboviral neuroinvasive and non-neuroinvasive disease. This means that a suspected case, a confirmed case, or a positive laboratory test must be reported to the health department in which jurisdiction the person resides by the end of the next business day.

The order for testing must be done by a physician and coordinated through a laboratory to draw, pack, and ship the specimen. Do not have the patient call the health department to ask about being tested.

This is information ODH sent for submitting blood for Zika virus Testing. If there is a need to test other tissue (fetal tissue, placenta, etc), please contact the Communicable Disease Unit at 330-375-2662 so they can confer with ODH about that specific procedure.

Here's the link to the CDC Specimen Submission Form to accompany the serum for Zika and other arboviral testing at CDC's Arbovirus Diagnostic Laboratory:
<http://www.odh.ohio.gov/pdf/IDCM/frm5034.pdf>.

Here are some tips to completing the form:

- Select "Arbovirus Serology" from the drop-down menu for Test Order Name.
- Include the date of illness onset and the specimen collect date.
- The healthcare provider can fill his/her information in the Original Submitter section to receive a copy of the results.
- If the specimen is being drawn by a different facility, the lab can fill their information in the Intermediate Submitter section to receive a copy of the results.
- The Travel History section on the second page needs to be filled out.
- The Brief Clinical Summary section on the second page needs to be filled out. CDC will not test specimens on asymptomatic patients.
- In the Comments section at the bottom of the second page, you can fill in "Zika, chikungunya, and dengue testing requested" to make sure CDC tests for all three (although I'm sure they will based off the travel history).
- The form should be filled out electronically and then printed.

At least 0.5 mL serum needs to be collected in a serum separator tube for testing. This should be refrigerated until ready to ship and then shipped in an insulated cooler on frozen freeze packs to keep it cold. This specimen needs to be shipped Monday-Thursday overnight to ODH Lab:

Ohio Department of Health Laboratory
8995 E. Main St.
Building 22
Reynoldsburg, OH 43068

ODH has said that it may take up to 3-4 weeks to get a result back. There is no specific treatment for Zika virus Disease.

Here is the link to the CDC's Zika virus main page: <http://www.cdc.gov/zika/index.html>