

Date: February 1, 2016

To: All Zones - Nursing, Physicians, Medical Officers of Health and Laboratories

From: Provincial Laboratory for Public Health (ProvLab)

Re: Availability of Laboratory Testing for Zika Virus

PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE

Key Messages:

- Zika virus is an emerging public health issue: www.albertahealthservices.ca/7082.asp
- Testing for Zika virus is restricted to the following patient categories with symptoms listed in the case definition*:
 - Symptomatic non-pregnant traveler OR symptomatic pregnant traveler with symptoms developing within 2 weeks of travel to areas of current Zika virus circulation;
 - Asymptomatic pregnant traveler with fetal abnormalities found on ultrasound such as microcephaly or intracranial calcifications.
- Asymptomatic pregnant traveler with no fetal abnormalities, OR asymptomatic non-pregnant traveler – NO testing will be provided.

*Case definition: Clinical illness with TWO or more symptoms: acute onset of fever, maculopapular rash, conjunctivitis, or arthralgia.

Laboratory Testing & Required Clinical Information:

Symptom onset < 7 days prior to testing	^a Order Zika virus RT-PCR on urine and blood (EDTA - lavender top) AND order Zika virus IgM and IgG serology - blood (SST gold top). Reorder Zika virus IgM and IgG serology 10-14 days later.
Onset date unknown or ≥ 7 days before testing	Order Zika virus IgM & IgG serology - SST (gold top).

^aMust contact the Virologist/Microbiologist-on-Call prior to requesting RT-PCR testing [Calgary site 403-944-1200; Edmonton site 780-407-8822]

Required clinical information on ProvLab requisition: (1) pregnancy status and gestational age, (2) clinical symptoms, (3) date of onset of illness, (4) areas visited within past 2 weeks, and (5) date of return to Alberta.

Comment/Questions:

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 Dr. Kevin Fonseca, Clinical Virologist at Kevin.Fonseca@albertahealthservices.ca

This bulletin has been reviewed and approved by:

Dr. Graham Tipples, Medical / Scientific Director, Provincial Laboratory for Public Health (ProvLab)