



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

Connecticut Department of Public Health
Dr. Katherine A. Kelley State Public Health Laboratory
395 West Street; Rocky Hill, CT 06067

Date: 2/29/2016

To: Medical Laboratory Directors; Health Care Providers

From: Jafar H. Razeq, PhD, HCLD (ABB), Laboratory Director

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Re: Zika virus testing using RT-PCR molecular assay on serum specimens at the State Public Health Laboratory.

Please be advised that effective today, 2/29/2016, the State of Connecticut Public Health Laboratory will begin offering Zika virus testing using the RT-PCR molecular assay on serum specimens from symptomatic patients who meet clinical and travel criteria AND are pre-approved for testing by the State Department of Public Health. Specimens received without prior approval will not be accepted for testing. To obtain approval for testing, providers must complete and fax the Zika Virus Report Form to 860-509-7910. The form is available at <http://www.ct.gov/dph/cwp/view.asp?a=3136&Q=575880>. The provider will be notified by telephone within 1 business day if a specimen may be submitted.

Testing is being offered to symptomatic patients, including pregnant women, with at least two of the four primary symptoms of Zika virus infection (fever, rash, arthralgia, or conjunctivitis) and a history of travel within two weeks before symptom onset to countries and territories with active Zika virus transmission. Updated information is available at <http://www.cdc.gov/zika/geo/active-countries.html>. Serum must be collected within 7 days from symptom onset for testing using the RT-PCR assay.

Serum (3-5 ml) collected for PCR testing can be stored refrigerated (2-6°C) or frozen (-70°C). Refrigerated specimens may be shipped to the State Laboratory with adequate ice packs, and for frozen specimens, ship on dry ice to ensure specimen remain frozen until received.

Complete the CT PHL Clinical Test Requisition OL-9B form ensuring that all required fields are filled in https://www.ct.gov/dph/lib/dph/laboratory/labhome/forms/clinical_test_requisition_ol9b_fill.pdf.

Specimens collected from individuals for Zika virus testing may be packaged and shipped to the State Public Health Laboratory as Category B Biological substances in accordance with the Department of Transportation Hazardous Materials Regulations (49 CFR Part 171-180).

Testing of asymptomatic patients for the presence of IgM Zika virus antibodies will continue to be done at the CDC until our laboratory is approved for testing. Currently, this testing is limited to pregnant women who travelled to affected areas while pregnant or within two weeks of becoming pregnant. Serum must be collected between 2 and 12 weeks after travel. Test results from CDC are backlogged due to high volume.

For laboratory related questions please contact the State Public Health Laboratory at 860-920-6635 or 860-920-6506. For questions regarding the approval process, please call 860-509-7994.