



# HEALTH ADVISORY #121

## Zika Virus Disease Update and Testing Guidance

**TO: West Virginia Healthcare Providers, Hospitals and other Healthcare Facilities**

**FROM: Rahul Gupta, MD, MPH, FACP  
WVDHHR, Bureau for Public Health Commissioner and State Health Officer**

**DATE: 06-09-2016**

**LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENTS:** PLEASE DISTRIBUTE TO COMMUNITY HEALTH PROVIDERS, HOSPITAL-BASED PHYSICIANS, INFECTION CONTROL PREVENTIONISTS, LABORATORY DIRECTORS, AND OTHER APPLICABLE PARTNERS

**OTHER RECIPIENTS:** PLEASE DISTRIBUTE TO PROVIDERS OF OBSTETRICAL CARE

West Virginia is one of 45 states to report Zika virus disease cases in 2016 with six travel-associated cases to date. All cases in the United States have been linked to travel to Zika affected countries; however, United States territories of American Samoa, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands are predominantly reporting local-acquired Zika infections.

Suspected Zika cases should be reported to the local health department **within 24 hours** in order to prevent local transmission and to coordinate prompt testing for Zika. State and local public health staff should use the Travel-Associated Illness Screening Form to determine if the patient meets the criteria for testing. This form can be found at: <http://www.dhhr.wv.gov/oeps/disease/Zoonosis/Mosquito/Documents/zika/Traveler-illness-form.pdf>. Once it is determined that a patient meets the testing criteria, samples should be shipped to the West Virginia Office of Laboratory Services (WVOLS). For guidance on specimen collection and shipment visit: <http://www.cdc.gov/zika/hc-providers/diagnostic.html>.

Because Zika virus RNA is unlikely to be detected in serum after the first week of illness, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has issued interim guidance on real-time reverse transcription-polymerase chain reaction (rRT-PCR) testing for Zika virus RNA in urine. For persons with suspected Zika infection:

- Zika virus rRT-PCR should be performed on both urine and serum specimens collected within 7 days after onset of symptoms.
- Zika virus rRT-PCR should also be performed on urine specimens collected within 14 days after onset of symptoms.
- A positive rRT-PCR result in either specimen confirms Zika virus infection.

The WVOLS is working to offer rRT-PCR testing for Zika, chikungunya, and dengue virus in the coming weeks. This is the preferred test for detection of Zika virus infection because it can be performed quickly and is highly specific. Specimens will continue to be forwarded to the CDC in the interim.

For more information, visit [www.dide.wv.gov](http://www.dide.wv.gov) or call the Division of Infectious Disease Epidemiology at (304) 558-5358, extension 1 or the answering service at (304) 925-9946.

This message was directly distributed by the West Virginia Bureau for Public Health to local health departments and professional associations. Receiving entities are responsible for further disseminating the information as appropriate to the target audience.

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