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# HEALTH BULLETIN

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## Zika Virus Testing Update

August 31, 2016

Multiple commercial laboratories have begun offering testing for Zika virus infection; however, not all commercial laboratories currently provide all testing necessary to fully evaluate a patient. Please consult the CDC guidance for Zika Virus Diagnostic Tests for complete details (<http://www.cdc.gov/zika/hc-providers/types-of-tests.html>). It is recommended healthcare providers contact the commercial laboratory prior to ordering tests to ensure the appropriate test is available. If the appropriate test is not available, contact the Kern County Public Health Services Department (KCPHSD) at (661) 321-3000 for further assistance.

It is NOT required to consult with KCPHSD before ordering commercial laboratory testing; however, KCPHSD is available to assist in determining which tests are appropriate for your patient, identifying a laboratory, and/or interpreting test results.

In general, **Zika virus real-time reverse transcriptase polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR)** testing should be performed on serum and urine collected during the first two weeks after symptom onset (or within two weeks of last potential exposure for asymptomatic pregnant women). RT-PCR is also indicated for asymptomatic pregnant women who present >14 days after last potential exposure and are IgM presumptive positive.

In general, **Zika virus IgM antibody testing** should be performed on serum collected >14 days after symptom onset (or last potential exposure for asymptomatic pregnant women). If RT-PCR is negative on serum and urine, serum IgM antibody testing for Zika should be performed. Samples with presumptive positive, equivocal, or nonspecific IgM test results **MUST** be forwarded to the Public Health Laboratory for confirmation by **plaque reduction neutralization test (PRNT)**. Specimens can be forwarded to the Kern County Public Health Laboratory at 1800 Mt Vernon Ave, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Bakersfield, CA 93306 for PRNT testing.

A general testing algorithm has been provided on Page 2 for your reference. If specimens other than serum or urine need to be tested for Zika virus, please contact KCPHSD at (661) 321-3000. It can also be found in color on the KCPHSD website at <http://kernpublichealth.com/zika/> under the Healthcare Provider's Section.

Providers are encouraged to review the CDC website "Areas with Zika" to determine if patients have traveled to or reside in (or have had sexual contact with someone who has traveled to or resides in) an area with Zika virus transmission (<http://www.cdc.gov/zika/geo/index.html>). However, due to past detection of *Aedes* mosquitos in Kern County, lack of travel history or sexual contact does not rule out a potential Zika virus infection in a patient with compatible illness.

**Zika virus infection is a reportable condition which must be reported to the health department immediately by phone.** Please call (661) 321-3000 to report a suspected or confirmed Zika virus infection. To report Zika virus infection on weekends, holidays, or after 5:00 pm, call (661) 324-6551 to page the health officer on call.

Thank you for your commitment to the health of the community.