

# General Zika Virus Testing Algorithm

Is symptom onset or last potential exposure (asymptomatic pregnant female) <14 days from specimen collection date?

Yes

No

## RT-PCR Testing

Serum: At least 2 ml serum (5-10 ml blood) in red top or serum separator tube.  
Urine: At least 2 ml fluid in leak-proof container. (Urine specimen collection cup NOT recommended! Transfer to sterile screw-cap tube and use parafilm to seal.)

Positive

Negative

Indicative of current Zika virus infection.

Does not rule out current or recent infection. Order IgM testing.

Is symptom onset or last potential exposure between 2 and 12 weeks from specimen collection date?

Yes

No

**IgM Testing**  
Serum: At least 2 ml serum (5-10 ml blood) in red top or serum separator tube.

Consider value of testing. Due to expected drop off in IgM after 12 weeks, a result of not detected is interpreted as inconclusive/indeterminate.

Positive, equivocal, or nonspecific

Negative

Is patient pregnant?

Indicative of no recent Zika virus infection.

Specimens collected within 7 days of onset/last exposure may be falsely negative. Consider repeat testing if Zika virus infection is strongly suspected.

Yes

No

**RT-PCR Testing (if not previously performed)**  
See specimen collection information above.

## PRNT Testing

Positive

Negative

Indicative of recent Zika virus infection.

Does not rule out current or recent infection. Order PRNT testing.

Zika antibodies only detected

Non-Zika flavivirus antibodies only detected (dengue, WNV, etc)

Antibody for Zika and other flavivirus detected

No antibodies detected

Indicative of recent Zika virus infection.

Indicative of recent or prior infection with another flavivirus.

Indicative of recent flavivirus infection, exact etiology cannot be determined.

No evidence of recent flavivirus infection. Consider repeat testing if Zika virus infection is strongly suspected.

Contact the Kern County Public Health Services Department at (661) 321-3000 to request testing for specimens other than serum or urine.