



DATE:	May 13, 2016
TO:	Health Alert Network
FROM:	Karen Murphy, PhD, RN, Secretary of Health
SUBJECT:	Interim Guidance for Zika Virus Testing of Urine
DISTRIBUTION:	Statewide
LOCATION:	Statewide
STREET ADDRESS:	Statewide
COUNTY:	Statewide
MUNICIPALITY:	Statewide
ZIP CODE:	Statewide

This transmission is a “Health Advisory”: provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.

HOSPITALS: PLEASE SHARE WITH ALL MEDICAL, PEDIATRIC, INFECTION CONTROL, NURSING, AND LABORATORY STAFF IN YOUR HOSPITAL

EMS COUNCILS: PLEASE DISTRIBUTE AS APPROPRIATE

FQHCs: PLEASE DISTRIBUTE AS APPROPRIATE

LOCAL HEALTH JURISDICTIONS: PLEASE DISTRIBUTE AS APPROPRIATE

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS: PLEASE DISTRIBUTE TO YOUR MEMBERSHIP

The Pennsylvania Department of Health is releasing this advisory to inform clinicians and others of the availability of additional testing for Zika virus. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released the following *MMWR* on May 10, 2016.

Interim Guidance for Zika Virus Testing of Urine – United States, 2016. *MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep* 2016;65(Early Release)
(http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/65/wr/mm6518e1.htm?s_cid=mm6518e1_e).

Diagnostic testing for Zika virus infection can be accomplished using molecular and serologic methods. Real-time reverse transcription–polymerase chain reaction (rRT-PCR) is the preferred test for Zika virus infection because it can be performed rapidly and is highly specific. However, in most patients, Zika virus RNA is unlikely to be detected in serum after the first week of illness. Recent reports using adaptations of previously published methods suggest that Zika virus RNA can be detected in urine for at least 2 weeks after onset of symptoms. Currently, the CDC Triplex rRT-PCR assay is the only diagnostic tool authorized by the Food and Drug Administration for Zika virus testing of urine. Other laboratory-developed tests will need in-house validations to adequately characterize the performance of the assay and

meet Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments requirements. Further investigation is needed to determine the sensitivity and utility of Zika virus rRT-PCR on urine specimens collected ≥ 14 days after onset of symptoms.

On the basis of the newly available data, CDC recommends that Zika virus rRT-PCR be performed on urine collected <14 days after onset of symptoms in patients with suspected Zika virus disease. Zika virus rRT-PCR testing of urine should be performed in conjunction with serum testing. A positive result in either specimen type provides evidence of Zika virus infection. Procedures for the collection and submission of body fluids, including urine specimens, have been described previously. CDC recommendations for Zika virus testing of serum and other clinical specimens remain unchanged at this time. CDC will continue to review and update guidance for Zika virus testing as new data become available. Please refer to the CDC website:

http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/65/wr/mm6518e1.htm?s_cid=mm6518e1_e

For submission of samples for Zika testing to the Pennsylvania Department of Health Bureau of Laboratories, the following specimen types listed below are acceptable for Real-Time RT-PCR testing for Zika virus:

- Serum (using serum-separator tube)
- CSF
- Urine
- Amniotic fluid

Please refer to the CDC link below on the Collection and Submission of Body Fluids for Zika Virus
<http://www.cdc.gov/zika/hc-providers/body-fluids-collection-submission.html>

Again, urine specimens must be accompanied by a patient-matched serum specimen for testing. Urine specimens submitted without an accompanying serum specimen will not be tested.

Any questions or concerns regarding these recommendations should be directed to the PADOH by calling 1-877-PA-HEALTH or contacting your local health department.

Categories of Health Alert messages:

Health Alert: conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.

Health Advisory: provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.

Health Update: provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action

This information is current as of May 13, 2016, but may be modified in the future. We will continue to post updated information regarding the most common questions about this subject.