



Guidance for Non- Endemic Arboviral Diseases Summer 2016:

The season of increased mosquito activity is beginning in Illinois. **Currently all Zika virus testing must be authorized through public health.** Contact your local health department for testing approval. Public Health will provide the test request/patient history forms which need to be submitted at the time of procurement.

Metro Lab will draw and ship specimens to the respective state agency (Illinois or Iowa) for testing. Please advise patients to come to our Moline office at 1520 7th Street for procurement. Contact our Patient Services (309-762-8555 ext 3140) for direction on faxing the completed paperwork prior to their arrival.

Transmission:

Travelers returning from countries or territories endemic with Chikungunya, Dengue, and Zika virus transmission may be diagnosed with these arboviral infections following their return trip home.

Local health department personnel and health care providers should advise suspect or confirmed cases of Chikungunya, Dengue, or Zika to avoid mosquito bites in Illinois for the first 7 days after symptom onset. This 7 day period is when the patient is viremic, at which time the patient could transmit the virus to mosquitoes.

- *Ae. aegypti* is the most efficient vector of Zika virus. The degree to which *Ae. albopictus* will transmit this virus is not known but expected to be less important since this mosquito bites both humans and animals. Although *Ae. aegypti* is not expected to be present in Illinois, case patients should reduce their potential for exposure to mosquitoes as a strategy to decrease the risk of Illinois mosquitoes acquiring the Zika virus.
- Risk of infection exists throughout the day, as the possible vectors, *Aedes* species (*Ae. aegypti* and *Ae. albopictus*) mosquitoes, bite indoors or outdoors near dwellings.
- *Aedes* species typically breed in domestic containers that hold water, including buckets and flower pots.

How to reduce exposure to mosquitoes once diagnosed with one of the non-endemic arboviruses:

- Stay in places with air conditioning or ensure that window and door screens are maintained properly to keep mosquitoes outside.
- Take steps to control mosquitoes inside and outside your home. (<http://www.cdc.gov/zika/prevention/index.html>)
- Use Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)-registered insect repellents with one of the following active ingredients: DEET, picaridin, IR3535, oil of lemon eucalyptus, or para-menthane-diol. Choosing an EPA-registered repellent ensures the EPA has evaluated the product for effectiveness. When used as directed, EPA-registered insect repellents are proven safe and effective, even for pregnant and breast-feeding women.

Reporting:

- All suspect or confirmed cases of Zika, Dengue, and Chikungunya should be reported to the local health department.
- Cases should be entered in the IDPH I-NEDSS system. Persons suspected of having one of these arboviral infections should be asked about:
 - Travel history, including destination, departure and return dates,
 - Symptoms, including onset date,
 - Unprotected sex with someone who had traveled to a country with active Zika transmission,
 - Previous arboviral test results (It would be especially important to know if a person had no recent travel but have laboratory confirmation.)

Please frequently check the CDC website for updates on Zika virus. Information and guidance can change rapidly. The list of countries with ongoing Zika virus transmission can be found at:

<http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/page/zika-travel-information>.

This list will be updated as new countries are added.

Additional resources for public health professionals, regarding Zika and other arboviral diseases, are available on the IDPH web portal in the "Communicable Disease Topics A to Z" pages under "Zika virus", found at the following link:

<https://dph.partner.illinois.gov/communities/communicabledisease/CDAZ/Pages/default.aspx>.

New guidance related to testing urine for Zika virus was released by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) May 10, 2016. This guidance is an addendum to the May 6, 2016 memo from the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) Division of Laboratories regarding guidance for submitting clinical specimens for Zika virus testing.

Specimens from symptomatic patients with at least 2 of the 4 Zika symptoms (fever, rash, conjunctivitis, or joint pain) who have traveled to one of the Zika affected locations or had unprotected sex with someone who traveled to one of the Zika affected locations will now be tested at the IDPH Chicago Laboratory.

For SYMPTOMATIC patients suspected of Zika virus infection, both urine and serum should be collected for submission to IDPH for rRT-PCR testing if less than 14 days after illness onset. A positive result in either specimen type provides evidence of recent Zika virus infection. Procedures for the collection and submission of body fluids, including serum, CSF and amniotic fluid, have been described in the May 6th memo from the IDPH Division of Laboratories. CDC recommendations for Zika virus testing of serum and other clinical specimens remain unchanged at this time. As new information becomes available, CDC will continue to review and update guidance for Zika virus testing. PCR testing for Zika virus is also commercially available for serum.