

**Communicable Disease Epidemiology
and Immunization Section**

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**Health Advisory: Changes in Zika Testing Availability through the WA Public Health
Laboratory – 15 June 2017**

Actions requested:

- Be aware that Zika testing at Washington State Public Health Lab (PHL) is now **limited to specimens from infants with possible congenital exposure to Zika virus and patients with a cost barrier to testing**. Specimens being tested at PHL must be approved by Public Health using the [Zika Intake Form](#).
- **Testing for Zika virus infection in all other persons should be obtained through commercial laboratories** including Arup, LabCorp, Mayo, and Quest.
- **Testing decisions and follow-up care should be based on current CDC recommendations** (See [CDC guidelines](#) for testing and follow-up care for [pregnant women](#) and [infants](#)). The [CDC website](#) also has recommendations for testing and preconception counseling based on geographic location of exposure.
- A positive Zika virus PCR result in any specimen confirms Zika virus infection. **A negative Zika PCR result does not rule out Zika virus infection, and reflex IgM antibody testing should be done**. See [CDC lab guidance](#) for more information.
- **Counsel women who are pregnant or planning to become pregnant to avoid travel to areas with Zika virus transmission risk and to avoid unprotected sex with sexual partners who have traveled to areas with CDC Zika travel notices**. Women with possible Zika virus exposure through travel should wait at least 8 weeks before trying to conceive, or at least 6 months if their male partner also had possible exposure to Zika virus
- **Assess all pregnant patients for possible Zika virus exposure at each prenatal care visit**. Record travel history and sexual partner travel history at every visit and counsel pregnant women about the risk of Zika virus infection.
- **Monitor neonates and infants with maternal exposure to Zika for [congenital Zika syndrome](#)**.
- Report all cases with positive Zika test results and all infants with possible congenital Zika syndrome to Public Health at 206-296-4774. Call Public Health at 206-296-4774 for questions about testing, specimen collection, or storage; Public Health is also available to assist with interpretation of all Zika test results.

RESOURCES

- American Academy of Pediatrics:
<https://www.aap.org/en-us/advocacy-and-policy/aap-health-initiatives/Zika/Pages/Zika.aspx>
- CDC Zika interactive widgets for assessing Zika risk and testing information:
<https://www.cdc.gov/widgets/zika/index.html>
- CDC testing algorithms:
<https://www.cdc.gov/zika/pdfs/algorithm-for-us-testing-of-symptomatic-individuals.pdf>
<https://www.cdc.gov/zika/pdfs/algorithm-for-us-testing-of-symptomatic-individuals-chart-2.pdf>
<https://www.cdc.gov/zika/pdfs/algorithm-for-us-testing-of-symptomatic-individuals-chart-3.pdf>
- General Zika virus information and Zika testing forms:
<http://www.kingcounty.gov/healthservices/health/communicable/diseases/zika.aspx>
- Comprehensive CDC Zika resources: <http://www.cdc.gov/zika/>