



Guidance for Zika Virus Specimen Collection, Shipping, and Testing



Recommended Diagnostic Testing for Zika Virus

- ✓ CDC is recommending that for any suspect cases of Zika virus infection, testing should be considered for chikungunya and dengue.
- ✓ Please caution your patient against NSAID use including aspirin until dengue is ruled out.
- ✓ **Healthcare providers considering ordering testing for Zika virus must contact ADPH Infectious Diseases & Outbreaks Division for consultation and approval at 1.800.338.8374. This also applies to those providers using commercial laboratories for testing.**

Specimen Collection & Storage

- ✓ To request that specimens be tested for Zika, chikungunya, and dengue virus, follow the instructions below to properly collect.
 - Collect blood specimen in a tiger top (serum separator) tube, centrifuge, and extract serum and place in a sterile tube. Approximately 2-3 mL of serum is needed to test for Zika, dengue, and chikungunya. Serum should be kept refrigerated (2 – 8°C) until ready to be shipped.
 - Collect 2-3 ml of urine (within 14 days of illness onset) in a sterile container and seal with parafilm. Urine should be kept refrigerated (2 – 8°C) until ready to be shipped.
 - **For ALL pregnant patients** –Collect and submit both serum and urine specimens.

Specimen Shipping

- ✓ The urine and serum specimen can be shipped together.
- ✓ **Must complete one (1) BCL Requisition Form** for each specimen (one for urine and one for serum) and **submit with the specimens to BCL**. Select Arboviral testing and indicate Zika, dengue, and chikungunya as the agents suspected. Include specimen collection date, date of symptom onset, as well as dates and locations of recent travel, and relevant vaccine history.
- ✓ If you are a Webportal user please use Analyte Type: Virology, Arbovirus and order ARBO PCR and ZIKA ELISA for serum and just ARBO PCR for urine. You must submit a separate request for each specimen. Please complete the information under the Auxiliary tab.
- ✓ The specimen should be kept cold **not** frozen.
- ✓ The specimen should be placed in an insulated container with **frozen** ice packs for shipping.
- ✓ The specimen may be taken to your local county health department to be couriered to BCL overnight (at no cost). Please contact your local county health department to coordinate courier pick up time.

OR

- ✓ Ship specimen directly to BCL-EID at 8140 AUM Drive, Montgomery, AL 36117 (**at your expense**).
- ✓ If you have a question about specimen collection and shipping, call BCL at 334-260-3400 or email clab@adph.state.al.us

Resources

- ✓ For more information about Zika virus testing and interpretation of results, <http://www.cdc.gov/zika/hc-providers/testing-for-zikavirus.html>