

District of Columbia Department of Health (DC DOH) Zika Virus Laboratory Testing Recommendations

Testing for Zika virus depends on the time between potential exposure and the patient's symptom status

- **Viral RNA RT-PCR:** performed on both **serum** and **urine** samples for **symptomatic** patients within **6 weeks** of onset and **asymptomatic pregnant women** within **6 weeks** of the last day of potential exposure OR any pregnant women with an IgM "positive" or "equivocal" test
- **Serology (IgM ELISA):** performed on **serum** samples collected **2 to 12 weeks** after symptom onset for symptomatic patients or the last day of potential exposure for asymptomatic pregnant women
- **Plaque reduction neutralization test (PRNT):** confirmatory test performed on all IgM positive **serum** samples at CDC laboratories

Collect 6 mL of venous blood in two **tiger/speckled top tubes**



Collect 5 - 15 mL of urine in a **sterile screw-top container**



To test other sample types (CSF, amniotic fluid, placenta, umbilical cord) contact DOH at (202) 442-8141 or DOH.EPI@dc.gov

Always submit **serum** and **urine** samples when PCR testing is indicated

Who qualifies for testing?

Symptomatic (*fever, conjunctivitis, rash, or arthralgia*) men and women with [appropriate travel history](#) or [sexual exposure](#)

All pregnant women, regardless of symptoms, with [appropriate travel history](#) or [sexual exposure](#)

Interpreting test results

Detailed guidance on interpreting test results can be found in the CDC MMWR titled: [Interim Guidance for Interpretation of Zika Virus Antibody Test Results](#)

Testing Symptomatic Non-Pregnant Patients

Symptom Onset	RNA RT-PCR						Testing not indicated
	Day 0	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 6	Week 12	
	IgM ELISA						
							Beyond Week 12

Testing Pregnant Women

Last day of Travel	RNA RT-PCR [#]						Contact DOH to discuss case
	Day 0	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 6	Week 12	
	IgM ELISA						
							Beyond Week 12

[#] RT-PCR is only performed for samples collected more than 2 weeks after exposure if IgM results are "positive" or "equivocal"