

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 **14 days** of onset and **asymptomatic pregnant women** within **14 days** of the last day of travel OR any pregnant women with an IgM positive test
- **Serology (IgM ELISA)**: performed on **serum** samples **2 to 12 weeks** after symptom onset for symptomatic patients or the last day of travel 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 a **tiger/speckled top tube** or **red top tube**



Collect 5 - 15 mL of urine in a **sterile screw-top container** and seal with parafilm



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

Always submit serum and urine samples when testing pregnant women

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	Testing Symptomatic Non-Pregnant Patients						Testing not indicated
	RNA RT-PCR			IgM ELISA			
Day 0	Day 1	Day 7	Day 14	Beyond Day 14	Week 12	Beyond Week 12	
	Viremia						

Testing Pregnant Women

Last day of Travel	Testing Pregnant Women						Contact DOH to discuss case
	RNA RT-PCR					IgM ELISA	
Day 0	Day 1	Day 7	Day 14	Beyond Day 14	Week 12	Beyond Week 12	