

Alabama Department of Public Health-Health Alert Network (HAN)
Changes to Zika Consultation Process and Clarification on Who Should Be Tested
September 7, 2016

The Zika Consultation Form should be submitted on all patients being tested for Zika virus infection, regardless of the laboratory conducting the testing. In an effort to streamline the consultation process, a new online consultation form is available and should be used for submission of Zika Consultations at

<https://www.adph.org/Extranet/Forms/Form.asp?ss=s&formID=5910>

Effective September 9, 2016, calls for authorization of Zika testing prior to submission of the Zika Consultation Form are only required for testing at birth and for fetal losses.

Providers should continue to call ADPH at 1-800-338-8374, available 24/7, prior to submission of the Zika Consultation Form only for specimens to be obtained at birth and upon fetal loss when associated or suspected to be associated with Zika virus infection in the mother. This will ensure collection of the appropriate specimens, and coordination of shipping and testing.

It is important that CDC's guidance and criteria for testing be followed when considering Zika testing. Testing persons not meeting the criteria for testing can increase the occurrence of false positive and false negative results leading to additional testing and problems with interpretation of the results.

In addition, with the use of the new online Zika Consultation Form, forms submitted on weekends and holidays will be reviewed and a response provided within one business day (for forms submitted Friday after 5:00PM through Sunday, a response will be provided on Monday. When there is a Monday holiday, a response will occur on Tuesday).

The following persons should be tested:

- Pregnant women with a “possible exposure” which includes symptomatic and asymptomatic with a travel history during pregnancy to an area with active Zika transmission, unprotected sex (or failure of the barrier method) with a partner who traveled to an area with active Zika transmission, or sharing of a sex toy with a partner with this travel history.
- Symptomatic patients, men or women (at least **one** of the four symptoms; fever, maculopapular rash, arthralgia/myalgia, or conjunctivitis) who traveled to an area with active Zika transmission.

- Symptomatic children (at least **two** of the four symptoms; fever, maculopapular rash, arthralgia/myalgia, or conjunctivitis) who traveled to an area with active Zika transmission.
- Symptomatic persons (as defined above) in one of four enhanced surveillance areas in Alabama including Mobile, Baldwin, Jefferson and Madison Counties regardless of travel history. Enhanced surveillance is being performed in these four counties to look for the occurrence of local transmission. Please note whether the patient is aware of mosquito/insect bites within 14 days of symptom onset and include the date(s) for question #7 and where (what city/county patient was in when bitten).

The following persons should NOT be tested:

- Asymptomatic men: Testing is not recommended to determine transmission risk because of the difficulty in interpreting results and the increase in false positive and false negative results.
- Asymptomatic non-pregnant women: Testing is not indicated unless there is some indication that sexual transmission may have occurred i.e. symptomatic sex partner with no other exposure history.
- Couples who want testing performed to decide whether they can become pregnant: Current guidance asks couples to wait until the risk of transmission is reduced. A negative test result will not exclude Zika virus infection and transmission may still be possible.

Please visit the following link for additional information on counseling and testing recommendations, <http://www.cdc.gov/zika/hc-providers/women-reproductive-age.html>