

# Dutchess County Department of Behavioral & Community Health

## PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY\*

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Marcus J. Molinaro  
County Executive



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### **ZIKA VIRUS: Updated Travel Advisory and Testing Guidance**

*Thursday, August 11, 2016 - 4 pm*

The Dutchess County Department of Behavioral & Community Health (DBCH) reminds providers of recently updated travel and testing guidance from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) regarding Zika Virus:

[CDC Florida Travel Advisory](#) (issued 8/1/16):

- CDC recommends that pregnant women avoid all non-essential travel to the Wynwood neighborhood of Miami, FL, due to active local mosquito-borne Zika virus transmission: <http://www.cdc.gov/zika/intheus/florida-update.html>
- Zika virus testing should be offered to pregnant women who have lived in or traveled to this area after June 15, 2016.

[Expanded Testing Guidance from NYSDOH](#):

- Three commercial labs offer testing for Zika virus: Quest/Focus (serum-PCR), ViraCor-IBT Laboratories (plasma, serum, and urine-PCR), and LabCorp (serum and urine-PCR and serology). **It is important that both blood and urine be tested, as Zika virus may be detected in urine for a longer time after exposure than in serum. Serological testing is particularly important for pregnant women**, given concerns about the effects of prior infection, which may only be identifiable through antibody testing.
- **NYSDOH continues to offer a free, comprehensive Zika testing panel** (including PCR and serology) at the state public health laboratory for patients who meet eligibility criteria. Updated eligibility criteria can be viewed on page 3 of the state advisory at: [http://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/zika\\_virus/docs/2016-07-29\\_zika\\_virus\\_update.pdf](http://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/zika_virus/docs/2016-07-29_zika_virus_update.pdf)
- Based on evidence of persistent viremia in pregnant women, **NYSDOH has expanded its testing protocol for pregnant women to include PCR regardless of the time that has elapsed** from last exposure.
- Based on evidence of female-to-male sexual transmission, the definition of possible exposure used to determine testing **eligibility has been expanded to include unprotected sexual contact with any person, male or female**, who has traveled to or lives in an area with active Zika virus transmission.

**Health care providers must call the local health department of the county in which the patient resides to order testing through NYSDOH.** To report suspected cases of Zika virus and to arrange for testing for Dutchess County residents, please call the DBCH Communicable Disease Control Division at (845) 486-3402.

The complete NYSDOH advisories can be reviewed at: [http://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/zika\\_virus/providers.htm](http://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/zika_virus/providers.htm)

\***Health Alert**- conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention; **Health Advisory**- provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action; **Health Update**- provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action.

**Dutchess County Department of Behavioral & Community Health**

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