

Dutchess County Department of Behavioral & Community Health

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Public Health Update

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NYSDOH Releases Zika Virus Testing Guidance Update

NYS Department of Health released updated guidance regarding Zika virus (ZIKV) testing indications and procedures. Full details may be found at DutchessNY.gov/providers (Public Health Advisories). The following information summarizes the NYS ZIKV Guidance.

NARROWING OF INDICATIONS FOR TESTING TO ALIGN WITH CDC GUIDELINES:

Recommendations for testing pregnant women have evolved given the dramatic decrease in ZIKV infection in the Western hemisphere.

	Testing is currently recommended by NYSDOH and CDC for:	Testing may be <u>considered</u> as part of a shared provider/patient decision for:
All Individuals	Anyone with possible recent ZIKV exposure who has experienced ZIKV symptoms	
Pregnant Women	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Symptomatic with possible ZIKV exposure;• Asymptomatic with ongoing possible ZIKV exposure (residence in or frequent travel to an area with risk of ZIKV transmission);• Possible ZIKV exposure who have a fetus with prenatal ultrasound findings consistent with congenital ZIKV infection;	Asymptomatic pregnant women with possible recent but no ongoing exposure (i.e., travelers)
Infants	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• With clinical findings consistent with congenital ZIKV syndrome and possible maternal ZIKV exposure during pregnancy, regardless of maternal testing results;• Without clinical findings consistent with congenital ZIKV syndrome born to mothers with laboratory evidence of definitive or possible ZIKV infection during pregnancy.	Infants without clinical findings consistent with congenital ZIKV syndrome born to mothers with possible ZIKV exposure in pregnancy who have not had laboratory assessment for their most recent exposure during pregnancy.

ACCESSING ZIKV TESTING IN NEW YORK STATE:

Effective February 28, 2018, preregistration of patients for ZIKV testing at Wadsworth through designated collection centers will be discontinued. Refer to the Dutchess County Guidance for Zika Virus Testing for testing procedures or call the Dutchess County Communicable Disease Control Division at (845) 486-3402.

PREVENTION GUIDANCE REMAINS THE SAME:

- Pregnant women should not travel to Zika affected areas and all travelers should take precautions to avoid mosquito bites. Destination specific travel recommendations are available at <https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/page/zika-information>.
- Individuals with possible ZIKV exposure should delay conception and use barriers (condoms/abstinence) [**Males - 6 months; Females - 8 weeks**] after last ZIKV exposure.
- Pregnant women whose partners have had a possible ZIKV exposure should use a barrier (condoms/abstinence) for the duration of their pregnancy.

Dutchess County Department of Behavioral & Community Health

85 Civic Center Plaza - Suite 106, Poughkeepsie NY 12601 - Questions? (845) 486-3402



Information for Healthcare Providers: 2018 Guidance for Zika Virus Testing in Dutchess County

Please use the following guidance as per NYSDOH changes to Zika virus (ZIKV) testing indications and procedures **effective March 1, 2018:**

Testing is **recommended** for any individual with possible recent ZIKV exposure who has experienced ZIKV symptoms, as well as:

Pregnant Women:

- Symptomatic with possible ZIKV exposure;
- Asymptomatic with ongoing possible ZIKV exposure (residence in or frequent travel to an area with risk of ZIKV transmission);
- Possible ZIKV exposure who have a fetus with prenatal ultrasound findings consistent with congenital ZIKV infection;

Infants:

- With clinical findings consistent with congenital ZIKV syndrome and possible maternal ZIKV exposure during pregnancy, regardless of maternal testing results;
- Without clinical findings consistent with congenital ZIKV syndrome born to mothers with laboratory evidence of definitive or possible ZIKV infection during pregnancy.

Testing **may be considered** as part of a shared provider-patient decision-making process for:

- Asymptomatic pregnant women with possible recent but no ongoing exposure (i.e., travelers)
- Infants without clinical findings consistent with congenital ZIKV syndrome born to mothers with possible ZIKV exposure in pregnancy who have not had laboratory assessment for their most recent exposure during pregnancy.



Testing Options:

Commercial Labs

- Multiple commercial laboratories now offer PCR and ZIKV IgM antibody tests appropriate for assessing persons who may have had recent ZIKV infection.
- Commercial labs are required to ship IgM positive serum to the NYSDOH Wadsworth Center for PRNT

or

NYS Wadsworth

- Preauthorization no longer required.
- Health care providers can request ZIKV testing from Wadsworth Center without specifying the precise tests to be conducted.
- Designated centers for collection and transport of specimens to Wadsworth Center will be discontinued. However, Wadsworth will continue to accept specimens submitted from laboratories or provider offices.
- Whole blood PCR for ZIKV has recently been added to the test menu following reports of extended positivity in this sample type.
- [Instructions for sample collection and shipping to Wadsworth Center can be found online.](#) Contact DBCH at (845) 486-3402 if you need assistance facilitating specimen submission to Wadsworth.

Questions? Contact DBCH at (845) 486-3402 or visit DutchessNY.gov/Providers