



Important Information for Healthcare Providers: Zika Virus Testing in Dutchess County

1. At this time, physicians can order limited Zika virus testing through commercial laboratories. Alternatively, a complete testing panel is still available through NYS Department of Health (Wadsworth Center) if the patient meets one of the following eligibility criteria:

- Is pregnant, and has traveled to a place where Zika virus was being transmitted while she was pregnant, or in the 8 weeks before she got pregnant.
- Is pregnant and had unprotected sex with a partner who traveled to a place where Zika virus was being transmitted during pregnancy or in the 8 weeks before she got pregnant.
- Is a man or woman who became ill with symptoms of Zika virus within 4 weeks of possible exposure through travel to a place where Zika virus is being transmitted, or sexual contact with someone who traveled to a place where Zika virus was being transmitted.

2. Get patient approved and registered for testing.

If you determine testing through NYSDOH is appropriate, you should contact **Dutchess County Department of Behavioral & Community Health (DBCH)** at **(845) 486-3402** to get approval for testing and to initiate the registration process. Your patient **MUST** be approved and registered through DBCH before they can get tested through NYSDOH. Once registered, DBCH will send an authorization directly to the patient via email, or it can be faxed to the provider if the patient does not have email.

3. Give Your Patient a Prescription for a Zika Virus Test.

In addition to the authorization from DBCH, patients need a prescription in order to get tested through NYSDOH. Prescriptions should have the provider's name and license number; the patient's name, address, and date of birth; and the following orders: *"Zika virus testing - serum and urine for PCR and serum for serology."*

4. Testing Arrangements and Specifics

- A testing site will be chosen as part of the registration process and site specific information will be sent to the patient by email.
- Patients need to bring the authorization from DBCH and the prescription from their provider to the testing site.
- The sample collection site is not able to provide any lab testing unless the patient gives them **both the DBCH authorization and the healthcare provider's prescription.**
- At the collection site, blood and urine samples will be collected and sent to the Wadsworth Center for Zika virus testing. **There will be no charge to the patient** for the blood and urine collection, shipping, and testing.

5. Results of Tests

Testing for Zika virus infection is a two-step process. The first test results will be available within a few days of the sample collection. However, in most cases, additional testing is required to determine if a patient was infected; these results may take up to 21 days. Some people may need additional blood samples collected three weeks after the first samples. Test results will be sent to healthcare providers to be discussed with patients.

6. Questions? Contact the DBCH at (845) 486-3402, or visit dutchessny.gov/providers (Select Emergent Diseases). You may also contact the NYS Department of Health Zika Hotline at (888) 364-4723.