



A Tradition of Stewardship
A Commitment to Service

Health & Human Services Agency
Public Health

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January 24, 2018

To: Women's Healthcare Providers

From: Karen Relucio, MD, Public Health Officer
Communicable Diseases Control Program

Updated Zika Virus Guidance and Transition of Zika Lab Draws from Public Health to Commercial Laboratories

This communication is designed to highlight the new Zika Virus guidance that was sent by the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) to healthcare providers on January 12, 2018 and to inform healthcare providers that Napa County Public Health will **no longer** be reviewing Zika lab requests, performing Zika lab draws, or routinely sending Zika lab specimens for testing at the Public Health Lab.

Background

1) **Testing Guidance Changes:** Based on the changing epidemiology of Zika virus infections in California since 2015, together with input from specialty organizations, CDPH is updating recommendations for the assessment and testing of pregnant women and their newborns for Zika virus infection. These updates align CDPH recommendations with current CDC interim guidance. See the [CDPH Zika webpage](#) for tools and resources to implement this guidance in California.

Consistent with the CDC guidance, CDPH no longer recommends routine testing of all Zika-exposed asymptomatic pregnant women, but instead supports individual risk assessment of asymptomatic pregnant women when considering testing for Zika.

- The decision to test a Zika-exposed asymptomatic pregnant woman should be based on a conversation between the woman and her health care provider that takes into account the woman's concerns and preferences, as well as level of risk of Zika infection.
- The CDPH Zika guidance includes risk assessment considerations to assist providers and public health professionals as they assess individual risk for Zika virus infection. In addition, the updated guidance suggests which list of [Zika risk areas](#) to use while assessing the potential exposure of different populations of travelers with the goal of minimizing over-testing of asymptomatic pregnant women and the risk of false positives.
- The algorithm that accompanies the new guidance is intended to facilitate patient screening decisions by providers as they address their patients' needs.
 - [CDPH Zika Screening Algorithm](#)
 - Updated CDPH [Zika Guidance](#) for testing pregnant women, pages 2 and 3.

2) Changes in Laboratory Testing:

Due to the ability of commercial labs to conduct Zika Virus lab testing, **starting February 1, 2018, Napa County Public Health will no longer be reviewing Zika lab requests or performing Zika lab draws, or routinely sending specimens for Zika Virus testing** to the Public Health Lab. All healthcare providers referring their patients for Zika testing are to use their contracted commercial laboratory of choice. A healthcare provider wishing to use the Public Health Laboratory (PHL) can contact the PHL at (707) 784-4410. All positive Zika results are to be reported immediately by telephone at (707) 253-4231 and follow-up with a [CMR](#) to the Napa County Communicable Disease Control unit via confidential fax at (707) 299-4479. If there are any questions about Zika lab draws, please call the Napa County Communicable Disease Control Unit at (707) 253-4231.