



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P. O. BOX 3378
HONOLULU, HI 96801-3378

In reply, please refer to:
File:

June 7, 2016

MEDICAL ADVISORY UPDATE: TESTING FOR ZIKA VIRUS

Dear Healthcare Provider,

We continue to closely monitor for cases of Zika and other mosquito-borne infections in Hawaii. To date, there have been NO locally-acquired cases of Zika virus infection in our state. However, because of the ongoing risk of travel-associated infection and potential for introduction in Hawaii, all clinicians should be vigilant and *immediately* report to the Hawaii Department of Health (DOH) any patients with suspected Zika or other mosquito-borne infection.

This advisory provides an update regarding Zika virus testing and clinical specimen submission guidelines. Please assure patients meet appropriate exposure and clinical¹ criteria (refer to the [April 27, 2016 Medical Advisory Update](#) or http://health.hawaii.gov/docd/dib/disease/zika_virus/ under the diagnosis section of "Information for Clinicians" toward bottom of the webpage). For a patient who does meet criteria:

- If he/she is < 7 days after illness onset, both serum and urine specimens may be submitted for RT-PCR testing for Zika virus RNA.
- If he/she is > 3 days after but within 2 weeks of illness onset, a serum specimen may be submitted for serology (IgM), and a urine specimen submitted for RT-PCR.
- If he/she has a history of compatible symptoms and potential exposure between 2 and 12 weeks previously or is an asymptomatic pregnant woman with potential exposure in the past 12 weeks, serum may be submitted for serological (IgM) testing.

Asymptomatic men or nonpregnant women should NOT be tested for Zika virus testing.

All specimens must be *pre-approved* by DOH for testing at the State Laboratories Division. All urine specimens must be accompanied by a serum specimen. Specimens with a negative or no PCR testing results and positive or equivocal IgM serologies will be sent to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for quantitative antibody testing by plaque reduction neutralization test (PRNT).

As with any mosquito-borne infection, individuals suspected to have Zika virus infection should be advised to stay indoors and avoid being bitten by the *Aedes* day-biting mosquitoes during their first week of illness. Additionally and specific to Zika virus infection, suspected individuals should be advised to prevent sexual transmission (refer to the [April 27, 2016 Medical](#)

¹ Signs and symptoms consistent with Zika virus infection include diffuse rash, arthralgia/arthritis, fever (usually mild), and/or mild non-purulent conjunctivitis.

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[Advisory Update](#) or http://health.hawaii.gov/docd/dib/disease/zika_virus/ under the management section of “Information for Clinicians”). Travelers to affected countries or regions should use mosquito repellents containing 20–30% DEET, wear long sleeves and pants when possible, and be advised to report illness occurring within 2 weeks of their return to their healthcare provider.

Other Resources

Further information and resources can be found at

http://health.hawaii.gov/docd/dib/disease/zika_virus/ and <http://www.cdc.gov/zika/>, as well as <http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices> for specific travel advisories.

Zika virus infection is an URGENT CATEGORY NOTIFIABLE CONDITION and must be reported by phone:

- Oahu (Disease Investigation Branch)..... (808) 586-4586
- Maui District Health Office..... (808) 984-8213
- Kauai District Health Office..... (808) 241-3563
- Big Island District Health Office (Hilo)..... (808) 933-0912
- Big Island District Health Office (Kona)..... (808) 322-4877
- After hours on Oahu..... (808) 566-5049
- After hours on neighbor islands..... (800) 360-2575 (toll free)

Thank you for your assistance in protecting the health of our residents and visitors.

Sincerely,



Sarah Y. Park, MD, FAAP
State Epidemiologist
Hawaii Department of Health