



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

In reply, please refer to:
File:

June 19, 2017

MEDICAL ADVISORY: ZIKA TESTING OF PREGNANT WOMEN

Dear Healthcare Provider:

While there have been NO locally-acquired cases of Zika virus infection in Hawaii, the risk of travel-associated infection persists. Therefore, pregnant women should not travel to any area where Zika virus has previously been or is currently circulating.¹ They and their partner should also use condoms correctly during sex if the partner continues to travel to areas where he might be infected with Zika infection or refrain from sex for the duration of the pregnancy.

Those women who continue to re-expose themselves and their fetuses should undergo testing for Zika virus after their first exposure. Thereafter, the Hawaii Department of Health (HDOH) does NOT recommend asymptomatic women be retested after every re-exposure. Similar to women with confirmed or possible Zika infection, these women should also undergo serial fetal ultrasounds every 3–4 weeks and be monitored frequently. At delivery, women who have tested negative and continued to put themselves at risk for Zika infection should be retested. Testing by HDOH for pregnant women who continue to put themselves at risk will only be approved according to these recommendations. Any woman who wishes to be tested for Zika virus infection after each exposure to potential Zika virus may utilize the services of a clinical commercial laboratory at her expense. Clinicians are reminded that a positive Zika result in a pregnant woman does NOT contribute to informing whether the fetus is infected with Zika virus or not.

All persons who travel should be advised regarding measures to avoid mosquito bites,² and persons who become ill within 2 weeks of return should be assessed for possible travel-related illness. Pregnant women who have had possible Zika virus exposure and are symptomatic³ within 2 weeks of that exposure should also be tested. Actively Zika infected persons are a risk for introducing Zika virus in Hawaii, and any persons suspected to be acutely ill and infected must be reported to HDOH.

Further information can be found at http://health.hawaii.gov/docd/disease_listing/zika-virus/ and <http://www.cdc.gov/zika/>. Please also refer to previous medical advisories: general Zika testing and prevention guidelines ([August 2, 2016](#)) and guidelines for testing symptomatic men or non-pregnant women ([June 7, 2016](#)). HDOH medical advisories may be found at <http://health.hawaii.gov/docd/for-healthcare-providers/medical-advisories/>.

¹ <http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/page/zika-travel-information>

² i.e., use mosquito repellents containing 20–30% DEET, wear long sleeves and pants when possible

³ Symptoms consistent with Zika virus infection include acute onset of fever, rash, arthralgia or conjunctivitis. In Hawaii, differential diagnosis in a symptomatic patient should include also dengue and chikungunya.

**** This message contains privileged communication between the Department of Health and clinicians and should not be shared with or forwarded to those not included among the original recipients. ****

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

- Oahu (Disease Reporting Line)..... (808) 586-4586
- Maui District Health Office..... (808) 984-8213
- Kauai District Health Office..... (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, M.D., F.A.A.P.
State Epidemiologist
Hawaii Department of Health