

# Testing for Zika Virus

1. The provider will identify a person at risk for Zika infection.
  - travel to an affected area (see current CDC map) (priority to pregnant females)
  - fetus or infant with evidence of intracranial calcifications or microcephaly whose mother was pregnant while in a Zika-infected area since March 2015.
2. The provider will contact the Health Department for consultation (530-225-5072).
3. If it is agreed that testing is indicated, the provider will arrange for a specimen to be obtained (serum, CSF, urine). The Health Department will provide specific requirements for specimens. Consult with us before collecting other samples/tissues (amniotic fluid, placenta, umbilical cord)
4. The laboratory will refrigerate and store the specimen for 24-72 hours at 2-4 degrees C.
5. The Health Department staff will electronically fill out the required forms (2) that need to accompany the specimen when shipped.
6. The Health Department staff will transmit both completed forms to the Health Officer for his approval.
7. The Health Officer will request approval for testing from the California Department of Public Health.
8. The Health Department staff will electronically transmit the forms (2) to the laboratory if approval is obtained as outlined.
8. The specimen will be shipped to the Viral and Rickettsial Disease Laboratory (VRDL) of the California Department of Public Health in Richmond, California. The specimen shall be shipped with cold packs if within 24-72 hours of collection. The specimen label must include name, DOB, and date of collection. Forms filled in and provided by the Health Department must accompany the specimen in a separate bag.

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Note: With the expected large volume of testing, the complexity of testing, and limited but growing capability and capacity for testing at the VRDL and the CDC, results cannot be expected for at least 4-14 days from receipt of the specimen, and probably longer. Results will be transmitted back to the Health Department, who will immediately convey them to the provider.

