

<b>DATE:</b>	January 28, 2016
<b>TO:</b>	Health Alert Network
<b>FROM:</b>	Karen M. Murphy, PhD, RN, Secretary of Health
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>Zika Virus Updates</b>
<b>DISTRIBUTION:</b>	Statewide
<b>LOCATION:</b>	Statewide
<b>STREET ADDRESS:</b>	Statewide
<b>COUNTY:</b>	Statewide
<b>MUNICIPALITY:</b>	Statewide
<b>ZIP CODE:</b>	Statewide

**This transmission is a “Health Advisory” provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.**

**HOSPITALS:** PLEASE SHARE WITH ALL MEDICAL, OBSTETRIC, PEDIATRIC, INFECTION CONTROL, NURSING AND LABORATORY STAFF IN YOUR HOSPITAL

**EMS COUNCILS:** PLEASE DISTRIBUTE AS APPROPRIATE

**FQHCs:** PLEASE DISTRIBUTE AS APPROPRIATE

**LOCAL HEALTH JURISDICTIONS:** PLEASE DISTRIBUTE AS APPROPRIATE

**PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS:** PLEASE DISTRIBUTE TO YOUR MEMBERSHIP

During the past week, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has released two important guidance documents related to management and diagnosis of pregnant women and infants with possible Zika virus infection. The Pennsylvania Department of Health (PADOH) is providing CDC’s brief summary of each document as well as links to the full documents, which have been published in the CDC’s Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR).

PADOH would also like to provide clinicians with additional guidance regarding the testing of diagnostic specimens for Zika virus infection. No Zika virus infections have been identified among Pennsylvania residents as of January 28, 2016.

## **Interim Guidelines for Pregnant Women During a Zika Virus Outbreak — United States, 2016**

Available at: <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/65/wr/mm6502e1.htm>

CDC has developed interim guidelines for health care providers in the United States caring for pregnant women during a Zika virus outbreak. These guidelines include recommendations for pregnant women considering travel to an area with Zika virus transmission and recommendations for screening, testing, and management of pregnant returning travelers. Updates on areas with ongoing Zika virus transmission are available online (<http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices/>). Health care providers should ask all pregnant women about recent travel. Pregnant women with a history of travel to an area with Zika virus transmission and who report two or more symptoms consistent with Zika virus disease (acute onset of fever, maculopapular rash, arthralgia, or conjunctivitis) during or within 2 weeks of travel, or who have ultrasound findings of fetal microcephaly or intracranial calcifications, should be tested for Zika virus infection in consultation with their state or local health department. Testing is not indicated for women without a travel history to an area with Zika virus transmission. In pregnant women with laboratory evidence of Zika virus infection, serial ultrasound examination should be considered to monitor fetal growth and anatomy and referral to a maternal-fetal medicine or infectious disease specialist with expertise in pregnancy management is recommended. There is no specific antiviral treatment for Zika virus; supportive care is recommended.

## **Interim Guidelines for the Evaluation and Testing of Infants with Possible Congenital Zika Virus Infection — United States, 2016**

Available at: <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/65/wr/mm6503e3er.htm>

CDC has developed interim guidelines for health care providers in the United States who are caring for infants born to mothers who traveled to or resided in an area with Zika virus transmission during pregnancy. These guidelines include recommendations for the testing and management of these infants. Guidance is subject to change as more information becomes available; the latest information, including answers to commonly asked questions, can be found online (<http://www.cdc.gov/zika>). Pediatric health care providers should work closely with obstetric providers to identify infants whose mothers were potentially infected with Zika virus during pregnancy (based on travel to or residence in an area with Zika virus transmission [<http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices/>]), and review fetal ultrasounds and maternal testing for Zika virus infection (see Interim Guidelines for Pregnant Women During a Zika Virus Outbreak). Zika virus testing is recommended for 1) infants with microcephaly or intracranial calcifications born to women who traveled to or resided in an area with Zika virus transmission while pregnant; or 2) infants born to mothers with positive or inconclusive test results for Zika virus infection. For infants with laboratory evidence of a possible congenital Zika virus infection, additional clinical evaluation and follow-up is recommended. Health care providers should contact their state or territorial health department to facilitate testing. As an arboviral disease, Zika virus disease is a nationally notifiable condition.

## **Diagnostic Testing for Zika Virus in Pennsylvania**

No commercially available test exists for Zika virus currently. To facilitate testing of suspect Zika virus infections, please contact PADOH at 1-877-PA-HEALTH. Clinically and epidemiologically appropriate specimens will be routed to the CDC Arbovirus Diagnostic Laboratory for testing. Please note the following:

- Testing of asymptomatic persons is not recommended in the absence of fetal microcephaly or intracranial calcifications identified on fetal ultrasound of a pregnant patient with relevant travel history. Clinically inappropriate specimens will not be accepted for Zika virus testing.
- The interim case definition proposed by CDC for use with suspected Zika virus infection is as follows:
  - An illness characterized by acute onset of two or more of the following: fever, maculopapular rash, arthralgia, or nonpurulent conjunctivitis not explained by other medical conditions, in a person who resides in or has visited an area with ongoing Zika virus transmission within 2 weeks before the onset of symptoms. (see <http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices/>)
- Other arboviruses, including chikungunya and dengue, cause symptoms similar to Zika virus infection and are potentially circulating in the same areas experiencing Zika virus transmission.
  - Patients meeting the suspect Zika virus case definition should also be evaluated for possible dengue or chikungunya virus infection.
  - Diagnostic tests for chikungunya and dengue virus are commercially available.
  - Results from commercial available tests are likely to be available faster than through CDC. This is especially important for clinical management of dengue, as aspirin and other nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs should specifically be avoided until dengue can be ruled out to reduce the risk for hemorrhage.

Categories of Health Alert messages:

**Health Alert:** conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.

**Health Advisory:** provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.

**Health Update:** provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action.

This information is current as of January 28, 2016 but may be modified in the future.