



Testing Recommendations for Zika Virus

In 2016, Zika virus disease became a nationally notifiable condition. Healthcare providers are encouraged to report suspected Zika cases to their state or local health department to facilitate diagnosis and mitigate the risk of local transmission.

Please note that all Zika testing to be processed by the Kentucky Division of Laboratory Services must be approved through the state or local health department. If you would like to report a suspect case of Zika virus or request laboratory testing for Zika virus, chikungunya, or dengue please call the Louisville Metro Department of Public Health and Wellness during normal business hours at **(502)-574-6675** or the Kentucky Department for Public Health after hours and on the weekend at **888-9REPORT (888-973-7678)**.

Zika virus is a mosquito-borne flavivirus transmitted primarily by *Aedes* species mosquito. People can also get Zika through sex with an infected man, and the virus can be passed from a pregnant woman to her fetus. This species of mosquito can also transmit dengue and chikungunya virus and is found throughout much of the Americas, including parts of the United States.

An estimated 80% of persons infected with Zika virus are asymptomatic. Symptomatic disease is generally mild. **The most common symptoms of Zika virus include fever, rash, joint pain, or conjunctivitis (red eyes).** Symptoms typically begin 2 to 7 days after being bitten by an infected mosquito. Severe disease requiring hospitalization is uncommon, and fatalities are rare.

Physicians should ask all pregnant women about travel to an area with ongoing Zika virus transmission. [Click here for countries with Zika virus transmission.](#)

The following individuals should be considered for Zika virus testing:

- Individuals with a history of travel to an area with Zika virus transmission **and** who report symptoms consistent with Zika virus disease (including acute onset of fever, maculopapular rash, arthralgia or conjunctivitis) during or within two weeks of travel.
- Asymptomatic pregnant women (women who do not report clinical illness consistent with Zika virus disease) who have traveled to areas with ongoing Zika virus transmission. Testing should be offered between 2 and 12 weeks after pregnant women return from travel.
- In addition, pregnant women with a history of travel to an area with Zika virus transmission **and** who have ultrasound findings of fetal microcephaly or intracranial calcifications should also be tested for Zika virus infection.

For complete CDC guidelines for physicians visit <http://www.cdc.gov/zika/hc-providers/index.html>

For additional information and updates visits: <https://louisvilleky.gov/government/health-wellness>