

LABORATORY DIAGNOSTICS

Laboratory testing is essential for confirmation of Zika virus infection

1. **Develop Capacity.** Laboratory confirmation is important for patient management and Zika action plan execution.
2. **Be prepared.** Procure necessary resources for supplies and equipment. Ensure adequate staffing levels for increased or surge-level requests for testing, potentially including cross-training laboratorians.
3. **Develop a plan.** Determine how you will prioritize testing pregnant women with possible Zika virus infection.
4. **Educate clinicians.** Reach out to healthcare providers, particularly OB/GYNs, regarding available Zika virus diagnostic testing options and how to correctly collect and transport samples for testing.
5. **Communicate.** Assess, and if necessary, modify communication plans between laboratory and epidemiology teams.
6. **Report cases.** Zika is nationally notifiable as an arboviral disease. Report positive Zika virus laboratory results to CDC (ArboNET). Reporting cases helps to inform national surveillance, guidance, and policy decisions.

CDC supports public health laboratories

- Evaluate diagnostic tests developed and distributed by CDC (<http://www.fda.gov/MedicalDevices/Safety/EmergencySituations/ucm161496.htm>):
 - Triplex rRT-PCR Assay that detects Zika virus RNA and dengue and chikungunya RNA
 - Zika MAC-ELISA that detects anti-Zika IgM antibodies
- Consult CDC guidance on diagnostic testing for Zika virus and interpretation of results: <http://www.cdc.gov/zika/pdfs/denvchikvzika-testing-algorithm.pdf>
- Access CDC biosafety guidance for laboratories to assist with risk assessments: <http://www.cdc.gov/zika/state-labs/biosafety-guidance.html>
- Stay informed about the most up-to-date information on Zika virus: <http://www.cdc.gov/zika/>