



County of Sacramento

HEALTH ADVISORY

Zika Virus PCR Testing by Local Public Health Lab Now Available

April 13, 2016

Situational Update

The Sacramento County Public Health Laboratory (SCPHL) has received approval from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to perform the new Triplex PCR assay, which detects Zika, Chikungunya and Dengue viruses.

- Triplex PCR is only approved for patients that are symptomatic with recent travel to an area with ongoing Zika virus transmission. It is the preferred test for patients during the first seven days of acute illness.
- Testing is performed Monday through Friday. Only specimens received before 10am will be included in the day's testing. Turn-around time for results is between 24 and 72 hours. Preferred specimen is serum.
- Serologic testing for Zika virus and PCR testing for asymptomatic patients will continue to be performed by state VRDL and/or CDC pending approval by SCPH Disease Control.

Providers wishing to arrange testing for Zika for patients must:

1. **Contact** Sacramento County Public Health (SCPH) at (916) 875-5881 Monday-Friday between 8:00am-5:00pm. Providers should not contact the State VRDL or SCPHL directly.
2. **Complete** both the CDPH VRDL Form and the CDC DASH Form. Forms with incomplete demographics, symptoms or travel history may be returned to the provider, resulting in delayed or canceled testing.
3. **Collect** the serum specimen or make arrangements for a commercially available laboratory to collect the serum specimen; collection is not done by SCPH. Collect at least 2ml of serum (5-10ml of blood) in a red top or serum separator tube.
4. **Send** serum specimens to the Sacramento County Public Health Laboratory (SCPHL) at 4600 Broadway, Suite 2300, Sacramento, CA 95820. SCPH will coordinate testing with CDPH VRDL.

CDPH VRDL laboratory testing guidance and forms can be found here:

<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/vrdl/Pages/ZikaInfo.aspx>. If you need additional information about Zika virus lab testing, contact the Sacramento County Communicable Disease Program at 916-875-5881.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Olivia Kasirye MD in black ink.

Olivia Kasirye, MD, MS
Public Health Officer