



## **Zika Virus**

### **Frequently Asked Questions for Healthcare Providers**

**Date: July 17, 2017**

**Time: 8:00 a.m.**

#### **Where can I find the most up-to-date information regarding Zika?**

Some of the best sources of information regarding Zika virus include the New Jersey Department of Health Communicable Disease Service (NJDOH CDS) Zika Virus website at <http://www.nj.gov/health/cd/topics/zika.shtml> and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Zika Virus website at <http://www.cdc.gov/zika>.

The NJDOH also sends updated information on Zika virus to healthcare providers and public health professionals through the New Jersey Local Information Network and Communications System (NJ LINCS).

#### **What is NJ LINCS and how can I sign up?**

The NJ LINCS Health Alert Network is an electronic system of public health professionals that enhances the identification and containment of diseases and hazardous conditions that threaten the public's health.

Benefits of having a LINCS account:

- Rapid access to the latest information on public health threats from NJDOH
- Convenient messages sent directly to your e-mail, eliminating the need to check external websites for updated situational guidance

How to enroll:

Visit the NJ Health Services portal at: <http://njlincs.net/NewUserRequest.aspx> or contact the local health department in the jurisdiction where your practice is located ([www.localhealth.nj.gov](http://www.localhealth.nj.gov)) for more information or to sign up.

#### **Where can I find information on Zika testing (approval, criteria, process, etc.)?**

The NJDOH sends out Zika virus testing information through NJ LINCS and also posts this information on the NJDOH CDS website. All updated clinical guidance and outreach information can be found at <http://www.nj.gov/health/cd/topics/zika.shtml>.

If you think you may have Zika virus, please see your healthcare provider for evaluation. If your provider is concerned and would like to seek testing, your local health department can be contacted to obtain approval. Only providers can obtain approvals, and testing requires a prescription from a doctor.

### **What commercial testing options are available for Zika?**

Select commercial laboratories are performing Zika Virus RNA Reverse Transcriptase Polymerase Chain Reaction (RT-PCR) tests available through FDA Emergency Use Authorizations (EUAs). These tests do not rule out Zika infection and should not be used as the sole basis for patient management decisions. For NJ residents, the NJDOH offers Zika virus RT-PCR and additional serologic testing as indicated. The NJDOH recommends providers continue to use the NJDOH for Zika testing needs. For more information on NJDOH Zika testing please visit: <http://www.nj.gov/health/cd/topics/zika.shtml> and for more information on EUAs visit: [www.fda.gov/MedicalDevices/Safety/EmergencySituations/ucm161496.htm](http://www.fda.gov/MedicalDevices/Safety/EmergencySituations/ucm161496.htm).

### **Where can I find information for pregnant women with travel to area with active Zika transmission?**

Please visit the NJDOH CDS website (<http://www.nj.gov/health/cd/topics/zika.shtml>) and refer to the CDC MMWR Interim Guidelines for Pregnant Women During a Zika Virus Outbreak (<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/65/wr/mm6502e1er.htm>). CDC also has a hotline for healthcare providers and health departments in regards to pregnant women with possible Zika: 770-488-7100 (standard emergency hotline) or e-mail: [ZikaMCH@cdc.gov](mailto:ZikaMCH@cdc.gov).

### **Where can I find information on caring for infants and children with possible Zika virus infection?**

Please refer to the CDC Zika Virus Website for Healthcare Providers for information regarding caring for infants and children with possible Zika virus infection: <http://www.cdc.gov/zika/hc-providers/ga-pediatrician.html>.

### **Where can I find information about the U.S. Zika Pregnancy Registry?**

CDC has information and fact sheets about the Zika Pregnancy Registry at <http://www.cdc.gov/zika/hc-providers/registry.html>. For questions about the registry please e-mail [ZikaPregnancy@cdc.gov](mailto:ZikaPregnancy@cdc.gov) or call 770-488-7100.

### **What if I have questions about specimen collection, packaging or shipment?**

Hospital laboratories should contact the NJDOH Public Health and Environmental Laboratory (PHEL) with any questions regarding specimen collection, packaging or shipment via e-mail: [zika.phel@doh.nj.gov](mailto:zika.phel@doh.nj.gov).

### **What if I have additional questions or concerns about Zika?**

The NJDOH and New Jersey Poison Information and Education System (NJPIES) have collaborated on a public call center for individuals who have questions about Zika. Please share this information with your patients and colleagues. The call center is open 24 hours a day and is staffed by professionals who can answer questions from the general public and health care professionals. The call center has the capability to answer questions in any language. The call center telephone number is 800-962-1253.

### **What additional resources are available through the NJDOH for women, children and families?**

The NJDOH Zika MCH Provider Resource List is available to assist providers in identifying programs and services for their patients. This catalog contains existing Maternal Child Health resources that can be used to address some of the needs of patients with the Zika Virus as deemed appropriate. Please access the MCH Provider Resource List at: <http://www.nj.gov/health/cd/documents/Provider%20Resource%20Table%207.25.16.pdf>.