



# Guidance for Zika Virus Specimen Collection, Shipping, and Testing



## **Recommended Diagnostic Testing for Zika Virus**

- ✓ CDC is recommending that for any suspect cases of Zika virus infection, testing should be considered for chikungunya and dengue.
- ✓ Please caution your patient against NSAID use including aspirin until dengue is ruled out.
- ✓ **Healthcare providers wishing to arrange testing for Zika virus must contact ADPH Infectious Diseases & Outbreaks Division for consultation and approval at 1.800.338.8374.**

## **Specimen Collection & Storage**

- ✓ To request that specimens be tested for Zika, chikungunya, or dengue virus, follow the instructions below to properly collect.
  - Collect blood specimen in a tiger top tube, centrifuge, and extract serum and place in a sterile tube. Approximately 2-3 mL of serum is needed to test for Zika, dengue, and chikungunya. Serum should be kept refrigerated (2 – 8°C) until ready to be shipped.
  - Collect 2-3 ml of urine (within 7 days of illness onset) in a sterile container and seal with parafilm. Urine should be kept refrigerated (2 – 8°C) until ready to be shipped.

## **Specimen Shipping**

- ✓ The urine specimen can be shipped together with the serum specimen.
- ✓ Complete one (1) BCL Requisition Form and **submit with the specimen to BCL**. Select Arboviral testing and indicate Zika, dengue, and chikungunya as the agents suspected. Include specimen collection date, date of symptom onset, as well as dates, locations of recent travel, and relevant vaccine history.
- ✓ Complete one (1) CDC's Specimen Submission Form (CDC DASH 50.34) and **submit with the specimen to BCL**. Include **specimen collection date, date of symptom onset, as well as dates, locations of recent travel, and relevant vaccine history**.
  - Specimen origin (top left corner): HUMAN
  - Test order name: ARBOVIRUS SEROLOGY
  - **Note:** Zika virus testing is not an option in the *suspected* -down menu (located on 1st page, top left); therefore, select "ARBOVIRUS SEROLOGY" and then type "Zika virus testing" in the Brief Clinical Summary field located at the top of the second page of the form.
  - Click the following link to print the completed form: [Instructions to enable printing of CDC submission form](#).
- ✓ The specimen should be kept cold **not** frozen.
- ✓ The specimen should be placed in an insulated container with frozen ice packs for shipping.
- ✓ The specimen may be taken to your local county health department to be couriered to BCL overnight (at no cost). Please contact your local county health department to coordinate courier pick up time.

**OR**

- ✓ Ship specimen directly to BCL-EID at 8140 AUM Drive, Montgomery, AL 36117 (**at your expense**).
- ✓ If you have a question about specimen collection and shipping, call BCL at 334-260-3400 or email [clab@adph.state.al.us](mailto:clab@adph.state.al.us)

## **Resources**

- ✓ For more information about Zika virus, <http://adph.org/mosquito/>