

Guidance for Zika Virus Specimen Collection of Fetal Loss or At Time of Birth Collection, Shipping, and Testing

The Alabama Department of Public Health Zika Pregnancy Registry Coordinator will contact the Healthcare provider with further instructions for collecting specimens after confirmation of test results. If you have not been contacted within 72 hours please email: Terri.Jenkins@adph.state.al.us or call: 334-300-3575/334-206-9467

DO NOT DISCARD ANY SPECIMENS OR TISSUE!
(Place all specimens or products of conception in formalin)
DO NOT send any product of conception specimens to the State Lab without authorization from the Zika Pregnancy Registry Coordinator.

Instructions for how to prepare tissues and products of conception

A. Collection and Storage

1. Serum

- Collect infant specimen in a tiger top (serum separator) tube, centrifuge, and extract serum and place in a sterile tube. Approximately 1-2 mL of serum is needed to test for Zika. Serum should be kept refrigerated (2-8°C) until ready to be shipped.

2. Tissue or Products of Conception

- Collect all products of conception. **DO NOT DISCARD!**
- Label all specimens to identify location in which the sample is collected.
- Use a volume 10X the mass of the tissue to fix specimens in 10 percent neutral buffered formalin for a minimum of 3 days. Store at room temperature.
- **Products of Conception:** Collect at least 4 specimens.
- **Placenta and Fetal Membranes:** Collect 3 full thickness pieces (0.5 – 1 cm X 3 – 4 cm in depth) from middle third of placental disk and at least 1 from the placental disk margin. Sample both the maternal and fetal side of the placenta.
- Collect 5 X 12 cm strip of fetal membranes.
- **Umbilical Cord:** Collect at least 4 segments of umbilical cord at 2.5 cm in length. Segments should be obtained at proximal, middle, and distal to umbilical cord insertion site on the placenta.
- **Brain and Spinal Cord:** Collect 5 or more brain and spinal cord specimens from different sections. These should be 0.5 – 1.0 cm³ each.
- **Solid Organ (heart, lung, eyes, kidneys, liver, skeletal muscle, and bone marrow):** If possible and available, collect 1 representative specimen from each solid organ. These should be 0.5 – 1.0 cm³ each.



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B. Specimen(s) Shipping

1. Serum

- **DO NOT** ship serum specimen and tissue samples together.

2. Tissue or Products of Conception

- **Complete one (1) Bureau of Clinical Lab Requisition Form for each specimen** and submit with the specimens. Select Arboviral testing and indicate Zika as the agent suspected. Include specimen collection date and the source of the specimen. Please use the comments area for details.
http://www.adph.org/bcl/assets/BCL_Requisition_Form.pdf
- **Complete one (1) CDC Specimen Submission Form (CDC DASH 50.34) for each specimen** and submit with the specimen(s) to the Bureau of Clinical Lab. Make sure to include the following information:
 - Specimen origin (top left corner): HUMAN
 - Test order name: Arbovirus Special Study
 - **NOTE:** Zika virus testing is not an option in the suspected – down menu (located on 1st page, top left); therefore, type “Zika virus testing” in the Brief Clinical Summary field located at the top of the second page of the form.
 - **Fully and with as much detail as possible**, complete the Specimen Information Section.
<https://www.cdc.gov/laboratory/specimen-submission/pdf/form-50-34.pdf>
- The specimen(s) may be taken to your local county health department (at no cost) to be couriered to the BCL overnight or they may be sent overnight by Fed Ex (at your own expense). Make sure the local county health department is aware that the specimens are there and they need for them to be couriered overnight.
 - If Fed Ex is picking up ship to: Bureau of Clinical Lab –EID
8140 AUM Drive
Montgomery, Alabama 36117
- If you have any questions about specimen collection or shipping, call BCL at: 334-260-3400 or email: clab@adph.state.al.us

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

