



CDC Issues Zika Virus Guidance

CDC recently released two interim guidelines for healthcare providers concerning potential Zika virus infections. The first guideline deals with caring for pregnant women during a Zika virus outbreak. The second guideline addresses the evaluation and testing of infants with

possible congenital Zika virus. CDC guidance is continually changing and we anticipate our guidance will change with it. Please continue to check the CDC <http://www.cdc.gov/zika/index.html> or State Hygienic Laboratory www.shl.uiowa.edu for updated information regarding Zika Virus.

Welcome to **In the Loop**, the newsletter from UnityPoint Health – Des Moines Laboratories.

The purpose of this newsletter is to distribute valuable information to our service area, including new test availability, test updates regarding methodology, specimen collection, and normal values.

We may also include feature topics related to laboratory diagnostics and test utilization.

If you have suggestions for topics you would like to read about in the newsletter, please email Kimberly.VonAhsen@unitypoint.org

Diagnostic Testing

Healthcare providers suspecting a potential case of Zika virus should contact the **Iowa Department of Public Health's Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology** at **800-362-2736**. CADE staff will consult with the provider to determine whether the case meets the CDC testing criteria. If testing is warranted, CADE staff will determine the specimens to collect, send out a pre-populated CDC specimen submission form (CDC 50-34), and make arrangements for the courier to pick up collected specimens and deliver them to the State Hygienic Laboratory (SHL).

All specimens should be submitted to SHL with a completed

[Viral and Bacterial PCR and DFA Test Request Form](#).



If not already listed, indicate the specimen type on the "Other" line in the Specimen Information section. Complete the pre-populated CDC specimen submission form CDC 50-34 provided by IDPH's CADE staff to send along with the specimen(s). Specimens should be triple packaged as a Category B Biological Substance.

Zika Virus Specimen Collection and Submission Instructions

Adults:

- Serum: 1.0 mL minimum, send refrigerated or frozen
- CSF: 0.5 mL minimum, send frozen

Infants:

- Serum: 1.0 mL minimum, send refrigerated or frozen
- Amniotic Fluid or Cord Blood: 1.0 mL minimum, send frozen
- Placenta: Sterile container, send frozen

Note: samples that are to be sent frozen should be frozen as immediately as possible after collection.

Laboratory Safety

Zika virus is classified as a biological safety level (BSL) 2 pathogen. It should be handled in accordance with Biosafety in Microbiological and Biomedical Laboratories (BMBL) guidelines and a laboratory risk assessment should be performed for the specific procedures utilized for testing specimens from patients suspected of carrying the virus.

For information on Zika virus infection

- CDC: <http://www.cdc.gov/zika/index.html>
- Pan American Health Organization (PAHO): http://www.paho.org/hq/index.php?option=com_topics&view=article&id=427&Itemid=41484&lang=en

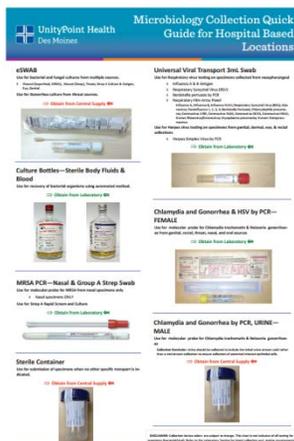
New Epic Laboratory Order Codes

• Pneumocystis by PCR	LAB2205	Effective 11/10/2015
• Soluble IL-2R	LAB5492	Effective 11/17/2015
• Tryptase	LAB827	Effective 11/20/2015
• Dengue Fever Antibodies (IgG, IgM)	LAB5299	Effective 10/29/2015
• HCV Fibrosure (Liver Fibrosis, ActiTest)	LAB4245	Effective 01/06/2016
• NASH Fibrosure	LAB4244	Effective 01/11/2016
• Isoagglutinin Titer Anti-A	LAB6281	Effective 01/12/2016
• Isoagglutinin Titer Anti-B	LAB6282	Effective 01/12/2016

Laboratory Posters Available from the UnityPoint Print Shop

<http://printshop.ihs.org>

Nursing Microbiology Collection Quick Guide (CLAB 201)



Proper Collection of Blood Cultures (PS 359)

