

This is an official
CDC Health Update

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10394-CHU-05-12-2017-Zika

**Prolonged IgM Antibody Response in People Infected with Zika Virus:
Implications for Interpreting Serologic Testing Results for Pregnant Women**

Update

On Friday, May 5, 2017, CDC issued a [Health Alert Notice](#) (HAN) to share emerging data suggesting that Zika virus infection may result in prolonged detection of Zika antibodies for some individuals. In the recent HAN, CDC provides guidance to help healthcare providers counsel their patients and make informed testing decisions. We have received several inquiries requesting clarification of the testing recommendations.

Some areas with a CDC Zika travel notice are moving into a second season where local mosquitoes may be spreading Zika. Women living in or frequently traveling to areas with Zika virus transmission, who are currently pregnant, may have been infected prior to conception and for these women, it may be difficult to determine when the infection occurred. Given these new data, CDC issued the recommendations below:

- For **asymptomatic pregnant women with ongoing risk of Zika virus exposure** (i.e., currently living in or frequently traveling to areas with Zika virus transmission):
 - In addition to previously recommended IgM testing, healthcare providers can consider concurrent Zika virus NAT testing at least once per trimester to provide additional clinical information to determine whether the positive IgM test results indicate a recent infection.
 - IgM and NAT testing can occur concurrently in the 1st and 2nd trimester.
- For non-pregnant women **who want to conceive in the near future and who have an ongoing risk of Zika virus exposure** (i.e., currently living in or frequently traveling to areas with Zika virus transmission):
 - Healthcare professionals can consider testing for Zika IgM antibodies. Testing before pregnancy can provide information that will help interpret test results in the future if a woman is exposed to Zika in a subsequent pregnancy. For example, if a woman has a negative IgM result before pregnancy and a

subsequent positive IgM result during pregnancy, it is likely that this woman experienced a recent infection.

- Antibody test results before pregnancy should **not** be used to determine if it is safe for a woman to become pregnant because the test results could have multiple interpretations. The CDC guidance also notes that test results represent a single point in time. Women who live in areas with a CDC Zika travel notice and who have never been infected with Zika virus are at continued risk of getting Zika.

CDC continues to evaluate all available evidence and will continue to update recommendations as new information becomes available.

DHEC contact information for reportable diseases and reporting requirements

Reporting of **Zika** is consistent with South Carolina Law requiring the reporting of diseases and conditions to your state or local public health department. (State Law # 44-29-10 and Regulation # 61-20) as per the DHEC 2017 List of Reportable Conditions available at:

<http://www.scdhec.gov/Library/CR-009025.pdf>

Federal HIPAA legislation allows disclosure of protected health information, without consent of the individual, to public health authorities to collect and receive such information for the purpose of preventing or controlling disease. (HIPAA 45 CFR §164.512).

Regional Public Health Offices – 2017			
Mail or call reports to the Epidemiology Office in each Public Health Region			
MAIL TO:			
Lowcountry 4050 Bridge View Drive, Suite 600 N. Charleston, SC 29405 Fax: (843) 953-0051	Midlands 2000 Hampton Street Columbia, SC 29204 Fax: (803) 576-2993	Pee Dee 145 E. Cheves Street Florence, SC 29506 Fax: (843) 661-4859	Upstate 200 University Ridge Greenville, SC 29602 Fax: (864) 282-4373
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For information on reportable conditions, see http://www.scdhec.gov/Health/FHPF/ReportDiseasesAdverseEvents/ReportableConditionsInSC/		DHEC Bureau of Disease Control Division of Acute Disease Epidemiology 2100 Bull St • Columbia, SC 29201 Phone: (803) 898-0861 • Fax: (803) 898-0897 Nights / Weekends: 1-888-847-0902	

Categories of Health Alert messages:

Health Alert	Conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.
Health Advisory	Provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.
Health Update	Provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action.