



## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Local Health Departments, Regional Offices of the Illinois Department of Public Health, Infection Control Professionals, Infectious Disease Physicians

**FROM:** Communicable Disease Control Section

**DATE:** February 17, 2016

**SUBJECT:** Update: Zika Virus Test Authorization Process

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The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) Communicable Disease Control Section (CDCS) is issuing updated guidance related to the authorization of specimens for Zika virus testing. An overview of the Zika virus test authorization process is provided below:

### **Zika Virus Disease Test Authorization Process:**

#### **I. Information for Health Care Providers:**

- Health care providers should contact their local health department (LHD) to discuss testing of persons that meet testing criteria established by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Providers should request an electronic copy of the IDPH Zika Virus Test Request Form from their LHD.
- Health care providers should complete both [CDC's 50.34 Laboratory Specimen Submission Form](#) and the IDPH Zika Virus Test Request Form. A copy of the IDPH Zika Virus Test Request Form should be submitted to the LHD governing the jurisdiction where the patient lives. Contact information for Illinois LHDs is available at <http://www.idph.state.il.us/local/map.htm>. Additionally, a completed copy of both forms should be sent with the collected specimen to the IDPH Chicago Laboratory.

#### **II. Information for Local Health Departments:**

- LHDs will thoroughly review each request, provide specimen authorization number(s) to medical providers, and enter information (demographics, travel history, and pregnancy status) into the Illinois National Electronic Disease Surveillance System (I-NEDSS). IDPH CDCS has added additional questions to the I-NEDSS Zika virus module to ensure lab authorization numbers, as well as symptoms, travel and pregnancy information is entered.
- IDPH CDCS staff will review case information in I-NEDSS and coordinate with the IDPH laboratory to ensure the lab knows which specimens are approved to be sent to the CDC for testing. **Unauthorized specimens will not be sent to CDC.**

After test results have been received from CDC, the IDPH laboratory will relay results to the appropriate submitter (health care providers, infection control preventionist, etc.) and IDPH CDCS staff. After lab results are received, LHD staff should enter test results into the appropriate I-NEDSS record, complete the I-NEDSS case report, and forward it to the IDPH CDCS for final review and closure. Timely data entry and case closure is critical for timely submission of up-to-date Illinois data to CDC.

Health care providers and hospital staff are encouraged to contact their local health department for Zika virus inquiries. IDPH CDCS staff is available to provide assistance as requested, and consultation for atypical situations for which there is limited guidance.

During workdays and normal business hours IDPH CDCS staff can be reached at 217-782-2016. **To reach IDPH personnel during Holidays and non-business hours, please contact the Illinois Emergency Management Agency at 1-800-782-7860. Ask for the IDPH duty officer.**