



STATE OF MARYLAND

DHMH

Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

Larry Hogan, Governor - Boyd Rutherford, Lt. Governor - Van Mitchell, Secretary

February 12, 2016

Dear Colleagues,

This letter provides updated guidance on Zika virus testing in Maryland. Today, the DHMH Laboratories Administration announced that DHMH can now test for Zika virus infection in Maryland residents. Such testing is expected to increase the efficiency of Zika testing in the state. The guidance is attached and can be found at our website here:

<http://phpa.dhmh.maryland.gov/pages/zika.aspx>.

In addition to announcing the availability of testing in Maryland, the updated guidance recommends collecting plasma and urine, in addition to serum, for suspected acute cases.

At this time, prior to submitting specimens, a consultation with DHMH or a local health department epidemiologist is still necessary to authorize specimens for Zika testing at DHMH. Testing considerations, including travel history and symptoms, have not changed since the last communication from DHMH:

http://phpa.dhmh.maryland.gov/IDEHASharedDocuments/DHMH%20Clinician%20Letter_Zika%20Virus_02.05.2016.pdf.

For updated Zika virus information, please continue to refer to the DHMH website at

<http://phpa.dhmh.maryland.gov/Pages/zika.aspx> and the CDC website at <http://www.cdc.gov/zika/hc-providers/index.html>.

Sincerely,

Lucy Wilson, MD, ScM

Chief, Center for Surveillance, Infection Prevention and Outbreak Response

Attachments: Updated Laboratory Guidance, February 12, 2016