



# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

Connecticut Department of Public Health  
Dr. Katherine A. Kelley State Public Health Laboratory  
395 West Street; Rocky Hill, CT 06067

**Date: 4/11/2016**

**To: Medical Laboratory Directors; Health Care Providers**

**From: Jafar H. Razeq, PhD, HCLD (ABB), Laboratory Director**

**Re: Testing for the presence of Zika virus IgM antibodies on serum specimens at the State Public Health Laboratory**

Please be advised that effective today, 04/11/2016, the State of Connecticut Public Health Laboratory will begin offering testing for the presence of Zika virus IgM antibodies from patients who meet clinical and travel criteria AND are pre-approved for testing by the State Department of Public Health. Specimens received without prior approval will not be accepted for testing. Testing of asymptomatic patients for the presence of Zika virus IgM antibodies is limited to pregnant women who travelled to affected areas while pregnant or within two weeks of becoming pregnant. Serum must be collected between 2 and 12 weeks after travel.

To obtain approval for testing, providers must complete and fax the Zika Virus Report Form to 860-509-7910. The form is available at <http://www.ct.gov/dph/cwp/view.asp?a=3136&Q=575880>. The provider will be notified by telephone within 1 business day if a specimen may be submitted.

Serum for Zika virus IgM antibody testing should be collected in a serum separator tube. Ideally, the tube should be centrifuged and serum decanted prior to shipment to avoid hemolysis. Serum (3-5 ml) should be stored refrigerated (2-8°C) and shipped to the State Laboratory with adequate ice packs to ensure specimen remains cold until received.

Complete the CT PHL Clinical Test Requisition OL-9B form ensuring that all required fields are filled in

[https://www.ct.gov/dph/lib/dph/laboratory/labhome/forms/clinical\\_test\\_requisition\\_ol9b\\_fill.pdf](https://www.ct.gov/dph/lib/dph/laboratory/labhome/forms/clinical_test_requisition_ol9b_fill.pdf).

Specimens collected from individuals for Zika virus testing may be packaged and shipped to the State Public Health Laboratory as Category B Biological substances in accordance with the Department of Transportation Hazardous Materials Regulations (49 CFR Part 171-180).

For laboratory related questions please contact the State Public Health Laboratory at 860-920-6635 or 860-920-6506. For questions regarding the approval process, please call 860-509-7994.

Thank you.