Testing Recommendations for Zika Virus

Zika virus is a mosquito-borne flavivirus transmitted primarily by *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes. These vectors also transmit dengue and chikungunya virus and are found throughout much of the Americas, including parts of the United States.

An estimated 80% of persons infected with Zika virus are asymptomatic. Symptomatic disease is generally mild. The most common symptoms of Zika virus include fever, rash, joint pain, or conjunctivitis. Symptoms typically begin 2 to 7 days after being bitten by an infected mosquito. Severe disease requiring hospitalization is uncommon, and fatalities are rare.

Physicians should ask all pregnant women about travel to an area with ongoing Zika virus transmission. [Click here for countries with Zika virus transmission.](http://www.cdc.gov/zika/hc-providers/index.html)

The following individuals should be considered for Zika virus testing:

- Individuals, including pregnant women, with a history of travel to an area with Zika virus transmission and who report symptoms consistent with Zika virus disease (including acute onset of fever, maculopapular rash, arthralgia or conjunctivitis) during or within two weeks of travel.

- Asymptomatic pregnant women (women who do not report clinical illness consistent with Zika virus disease) who have traveled to areas with ongoing Zika virus transmission. Testing should be offered between 2 and 12 weeks after pregnant women return from travel.

- In addition, pregnant women with a history of travel to an area with Zika virus transmission and who have ultrasound findings of fetal microcephaly or intracranial calcifications should also be tested for Zika virus infection.


For additional information and updates visit: [https://louisvilleky.gov/government/health-wellness](https://louisvilleky.gov/government/health-wellness)

Please note that all Zika testing must be approved by the health department. If you would like to report a suspect case of Zika virus or request laboratory testing for Zika virus, chikungunya, or dengue please call the Louisville Metro Department of Public Health and Wellness during normal business hours at (502)-574-6675 or the Kentucky Department for Public Heath after hours and on the weekend at 888-9REPORT (888-973-7678).

Please note the following:

In 2016, Zika virus disease became a nationally notifiable condition. Healthcare providers are encouraged to report suspected Zika cases to their state or local health department to facilitate diagnosis and mitigate the risk of local transmission.