Who Needs Testing for Zika Virus? Areas WITH Local Transmission

Testing

For men and non-pregnant women living in an area with local Zika virus transmission, testing is recommended if the person:

▶ Develops symptoms of Zika virus

Serum and urine collected from symptomatic patients < 14 days post onset of symptoms should be tested by Zika virus real time reverse transcriptase-polymerase chain reaction (rRT-PCR). A positive Zika rRT-PCR result in either specimen is sufficient to diagnose Zika virus infection. If Zika virus rRT-PCR results are negative for both specimens, serum should be tested by antibody detection methods. Serum that has been collected from patients presenting 2-12 weeks from onset of symptoms should be tested first by anti-Zika immunoglobulin (IgM) detection methods.

For information on the appropriate type and timing of testing, see the CDC Zika testing guidelines: https://www.cdc.gov/zika/laboratories/lab-guidance.html.

▶ Whereas a positive Zika test result indicates the definitive need to delay pregnancy, a negative test result cannot be used to establish the absence of risk.

▶ Clients should be aware that the risk of infection among those who have not been previously infected continues as long as Zika remains in the area.

▶ In an area with local transmission of Zika, the only circumstance under which testing is currently recommended for an asymptomatic person is pregnant women. For more information, see CDC guidance about caring for pregnant women: http://www.cdc.gov/zika/pdfs/testing_algorithm.pdf

▶ Testing is not indicated for asymptomatic men or asymptomatic women who are not pregnant.