



# County of Fairfax, Virginia

## Fairfax County Health Department



<b>New Information</b>	<b>HEALTH ADVISORY</b>	<b>January 29, 2016</b>
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**SUBJECT: Zika Virus- Public Health Laboratory Testing Guidance (as of 1/29/2016).**

**SUMMARY:** Virginia just received confirmation of our first imported case of Zika virus infection. Even though it is not mosquito season in Virginia, it is important for you to be aware of Zika virus, including its potential impacts to pregnant women and their babies, to assure proper laboratory guidance and counseling to your patients. As Zika virus is an arboviral infection, it is a reportable condition in Virginia. **Please report all suspect cases to the Fairfax County Health Department Communicable Disease/Epidemiology Unit at 703-246-2433.**

**SUGGESTED ACTIONS:**

- Laboratory testing is currently only available through the CDC for Zika virus. Health care providers who are concerned about illness in a patient who traveled to an area of the world affected by Zika virus should consult with the Fairfax County Health Department about the need for testing a patient. Public health will make arrangements for testing as necessary. A testing algorithm is included in this health advisory.
- **The current priority of public health actions related to Zika virus in Virginia will be to identify pregnant women who are infected.** An individual will be considered for testing by public health if he/she meets any of the following:
  - A.) Traveled to a Zika-affected area (<http://www.cdc.gov/zika/geo/index.html>)  
**AND**  
Has onset of two or more of the following symptoms within two weeks of their travel,
    - acute onset of fever
    - maculopapular rash
    - arthralgia
    - conjunctivitis
  - B.) Pregnant women who traveled to or resided in a Zika-affected area during pregnancy  
**AND**
    - An ultrasound identifies microcephaly or intracranial calcifications in her fetus, or
    - Experienced fetal loss or has an infant born with microcephaly, or
    - Whose travel companion was diagnosed with Zika virus
  - C.) Infant born to a mother who had a positive or inconclusive test result for Zika

**Categories of Fairfax County Health Department Messages**  
**Health Alert** conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.  
**Health Advisory** provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.  
Health Department Communicable Disease Unit: 703-246-2433, TTY 711



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- Pregnant women who do not have symptoms, fetal loss, or a fetus/infant with microcephaly will not be offered public health testing for Zika virus. Serial ultrasounds every 3-4 weeks are recommended for those pregnant women who traveled to an affected area.
- Regardless of pregnancy status, the clinical presentation of Zika can be similar to dengue and chikungunya virus infection. Patients with symptoms consistent with Zika virus infection should be evaluated for dengue and chikungunya virus infection as well. Laboratory testing for chikungunya and dengue for non-pregnant individuals should be pursued at a commercial laboratory.
- All individuals approved by public health for Zika virus testing will have laboratory testing for dengue and chikungunya virus completed by public health at the same time.

### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

- CDC and the Virginia Department of Health recommend that all pregnant women consider postponing travel to areas where Zika virus transmission is ongoing (<http://www.cdc.gov/zika/geo/index.html>).
- If a pregnant woman under your care cannot avoid travel, please advise her to follow strictly the steps to avoid mosquito bites. Mosquito prevention strategies include wearing long-sleeved shirts and long pants, using insect repellent according to package instructions, and staying in rooms with air conditioning or screens on the windows.
- Zika virus is transmitted mostly by *Aedes aegyptii* mosquitoes, but *Aedes albopictus* can also transmit it. Both these types of mosquitoes circulate in Virginia, with *A. albopictus* being the most common nuisance mosquito here. Therefore, there is a risk of Zika virus being imported into Virginia and being transmitted by local mosquitoes during mosquito season, yet at this time you cannot get infected with Zika virus in Virginia.

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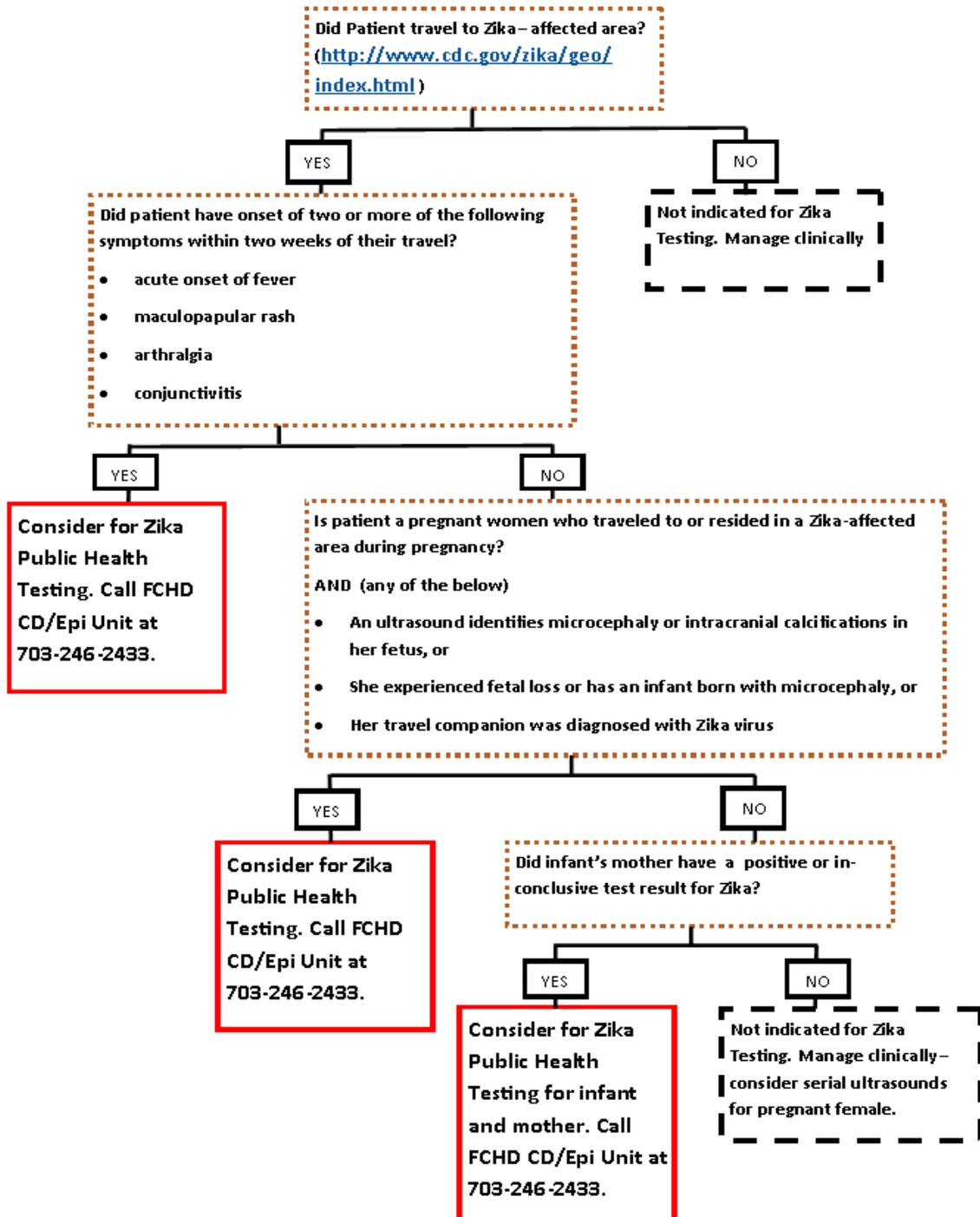


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### Zika Virus- Public Health Laboratory Testing Algorithm\* (1/29/2016)



\*Guidance likely to change as more information becomes available

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