Zika Testing FAQ

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Zika Contact Information

Public Information	
LAC DPH Zika Website www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/acd/VectorZika.htm	General information Frequently asked questions
2-1-1 www.211la.org/	 General information Access to comprehensive health and social services (including identifying a medical provider)
 Mosquito Abatement Districts Antelope Valley (661) 942-2917 Greater Los Angeles (562) 944-9656 L.A. County West (310) 915-7370 City of Long Beach (562) 570-4132 Compton Creek (310) 933-5321 San Gabriel Valley (626) 814-9466 City of Pasadena (626) 744-6005 Orange County (714) 971-2421 	Reporting mosquito breeding sites and resolving questions/issues regarding mosquitoes
Mosquito Abatement District Finder www.glacvcd.org/about-us/overview-of- district/district-service-area-map/	To find the Mosquito Abatement District that covers your area, enter your zip code in the box at the bottom of the page at this website
Los Angeles County Department of Public Works www.ladpw.org	Reporting potholes or street problems with water accumulation

Frequently Asked Questions

How do I know if I should be tested for Zika?

Currently, the Zika virus is not spread by mosquitoes in Los Angeles County (LAC). All cases of Zika in LAC were infected during travel to countries outside the US. Because the countries where Zika is spreading may change, it is important to view the CDC site for the most up-to-date list of places where people might be get this virus (http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel).

Those who should be tested for Zika include:

- Pregnant women, even without symptoms of Zika, who
 - o have traveled to an area where Zika is currently spreading, or
 - have had unprotected sex with a person who traveled to an area where Zika is currently spreading, or
 - o have had a fetal an abnormal ultrasound (evidence of microcephaly and/or calcifications)
- Anyone who has traveled to an area where Zika is currently spreading, <u>and</u> has symptoms of Zika (fever, rash, joint pain, red eyes), <u>and</u> is less than 12 weeks after returning from their travel
- Anyone who has had unprotected sex with a traveler from an area where Zika is spreading and has developed symptoms of Zika (fever, rash, joint pain, red eyes)
- ❖ A traveler to a country where Zika is spreading, or who has had unprotected sex with a traveler from an area with Zika, who has been diagnosed with Guillain-Barré Syndrome

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What if my partner and I are trying to get pregnant?

People trying to get pregnant, should talk to their doctor, especially if they traveled to an area where Zika is spreading. Their doctor might recommend delaying pregnancy.

Where can I be tested for Zika?

Most medical providers can collect the specimens needed to test their patients for Zika. Generally this will include a blood specimen and possibly a urine specimen. Testing can be performed either at a commercial laboratory or at the LAC Public Health Laboratories (PHL). Approval from LAC DPH is not required for Zika testing. However, testing done by the LAC PHL might be rejected or delayed if the request form submitted by a medical provider is not complete, not filled out correctly, or does not show that the patient meets the criteria for testing.

- What should I do if my medical provider cannot collect specimens for Zika testing?

 If a medical facility cannot draw the blood specimen needed to test for Zika, the <u>provider</u> should call LAC DPH's Acute Communicable Disease Control (ACDC) program at 213-240-7941 (Mon-Fri, 8am-5pm) and ask to speak to someone from the Zika Call Team to make arrangements for testing.
- Where can I go to be tested for Zika if I don't have a medical provider or insurance? For assistance finding a medical provider and other health and social services, call 2-1-1.

How long will it take to get my test results from the LAC PHL?

It generally takes 4 to 6 weeks from when a Zika specimen is sent for testing until the Public Health Lab is able to inform a medical provider of the results. However, there are several factors that can delay testing including:

- If the test request form is incomplete or filled out incorrectly
- If there are problems with the specimen (such as if it is packaged or shipped incorrectly, labeled incorrectly, there is insufficient specimen, etc.)
- o If the specimen was not obtained during the right period of time after the possible exposure (for example, if it's been more than 12 weeks since one traveled to a Zika affected area)
- Who should I call to find out about the status of my Zika test with the LAC PHL?
 Patients cannot call for test results. Medical providers can call the PHL during business hours to inquire about the status of Zika specimens. The status of specimens and test results will not be released to the public.
- Why are test results only released to medical providers, not to the patient?

 Zika test results can be complicated and sometimes require medical interpretation. As such, it is important that test results be discussed between patients and their doctors.