

April 25, 2016

To: Physicians, Nurses and Health Care Providers

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Subject: Zika Virus Testing, New Specimen Requirements and Processing Information

Zika virus is spread to people through mosquito bites. The most common symptoms of Zika virus disease are fever, rash, joint pain, and conjunctivitis (red eyes). The illness is usually mild with symptoms lasting from several days to a week. Severe disease requiring hospitalization is uncommon. In May 2015, the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) issued an alert regarding the first confirmed Zika virus infection in Brazil. The outbreak in Brazil led to reports of Guillain-Barré syndrome and pregnant women giving birth to babies with birth defects and poor pregnancy outcomes.

Further information can be accessed from the CDC and NJDOH websites:

<http://www.cdc.gov/zika/>

<http://www.nj.gov/health/cd/zika/techinfo.shtml>

The websites above contain specific guidance for testing infants and pregnant women. If you suspect and require testing to confirm Zika virus, you must contact the local health department or the NJ State Department of Health during regular business hours to discuss testing.

Bergen County Department of Health - (201) 634 2600, NJDOH - (609) 826 5964

Test requests must be approved from NJDOH and must be accompanied by a barcoded CDC 50.34 Form

<http://www.cdc.gov/laboratory/specimen-submission/pdf/form-50-34.pdf>

Patients Drawn in Physician Offices:

Please contact the NJDOH on the numbers above and fill out all required forms as advised.

Patients Drawn at Total Lab Out Patient Draw Center:

Patients must present with script from physician **and** the completed CDC form.

Specimens Requirements: SERUM and URINE required for each test request

Serum: Two (2) 3 ml aliquots of sera in two separate tubes

Urine: Two (2) 3 ml aliquots of urine samples without preservative

Please contact laboratory to notify that testing has been approved and specimens are to be sent. Specimens are to be sent to the Clinical Virology Lab at HUMC **with the CDC form attached**. The Virology Lab will facilitate sending the specimens to the NJDOH and the CDC. Any questions, please call 551-996-4945 (Clinical Virology) or 551-996-4860 (Specimen Processing and Accessioning).