

PLEASE NOTE – REVISED CHART (April 2018)

**Maryland Department of Health (MDH) Laboratories Administration
Guidelines and Instructions for Zika Testing**

Preapproval of Zika Test Results

An infectious disease consultation with MDH is still required to authorize specimens for Zika virus testing at the MDH Laboratory, prior to submitting specimens. Contact the MDH Infectious Disease Epidemiology and Outbreak Response Bureau at 410-767-6700 (or after hours at 410-795-7365) for consultation. Prior to contacting MDH, review of the current MDH Zika virus testing guidance at <http://phpa.health.maryland.gov/pages/zika.aspx> is highly recommended, as well as the CDC guidance found in the links below.

Specimen Collection and Handling

Testing Category	Specimen Type (see Notes 1 & 2)	Volume/Amount	Collect In:	Storage and Shipping Conditions (see Note 3 for storage > + 7 days)
Symptomatic Adults and Children Asymptomatic Pregnant Women (If testing at commercial laboratory, check with that laboratory for specimen instructions.) Refer to: http://www.cdc.gov/zika/hc-providers/types-of-tests.html	Serum	3-5 ml (6-10 ml blood draw)	Red top, tiger top, or gold top serum separator tube	Refrigeration (2-8°C)
	Whole Blood	4-5 ml	Purple top EDTA tube	Refrigeration (2-8°C)
	Urine	5-10 ml	Leak proof, sterile urine cup; label as urine	Refrigeration (2-8°C)
	Cerebral Spinal Fluid (CSF)	1-2 ml	Leak proof, sterile tube or vial; label as CSF	Refrigeration (2-8°C)
Infants (within 2 days of birth) Refer to: CDC Guidelines on Collecting and Submitting Specimens at Time of Birth for Zika Virus Testing. http://www.cdc.gov/zika/hc-providers/test-specimens-at-time-of-birth.html	Serum	≥ 2 ml serum (≥ 4 ml blood draw)	Red top, tiger top, or gold top serum separator tube	Refrigeration (2-8°C)
	Urine	5-10 ml	Leak proof, sterile urine cup; label as urine	Refrigeration (2-8°C)
	Fixed Placenta, Fetal membrane, Umbilical Cord	1 inch square of: ♦ Umbilical cord ♦ Fetal membranes ♦ Placental disk edge ♦ Placental disk midsection ♦ Pathologic Lesions	Fix specimens in formalin; volume of formalin used should be as small as possible, but about 10x mass of tissue. (See Note 4 for further instructions.)	Room Temperature

Notes

¹A serum specimen must accompany all urine, CSF, or whole blood specimens or testing will not be performed.

²Plasma is not accepted for Zika testing at MDH.

³If specimens (except whole blood and fixed tissue) are to be held for longer than seven (7) days after collection until delivery to the testing lab, it is recommended to freeze to ≤ 20°C and ship frozen (on dry ice). Avoid repeating freezing and thawing cycles. Whole blood EDTA should not be frozen but refrigerated and tested within one week of collection. Fixed tissue should be held and shipped at room temperature.

⁴Place tissue collected according to the dimensions provided above in 10% buffered formalin for three days (72 hours). After fixation, if not paraffin-embedded, tissues SHOULD be transferred to 70% ethanol for long term storage and for shipping.