Commercial Laboratory Zika Virus Testing
Information and IgM Testing Procedure

Commercial Zika Virus Testing Information

- Travelers who are symptomatic after returning from a Zika-affected area should be tested for Zika virus by real-time reverse-transcription polymerase chain reaction (rRT-PCR).
- Several PCR tests for Zika virus are now available commercially under the federal Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Emergency Use Authorizations. For additional information, visit http://www.fda.gov/MedicalDevices/Safety/EmergencySituations/ucm161496.htm#zika.
- However, the commercially laboratories do not offer Zika virus IgM enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) or confirmatory serologic testing (plaque reduction neutralization test, or PRNT).
- Providers should store a serum aliquot for subsequent Zika virus IgM MAC-ELISA testing at the state laboratory in the event the PCR is negative.  2 mLs of serum should be collected between 4 days and 12 weeks after symptom onset.
- For specimens that are PCR negative and a serum aliquot was not saved, another serum specimen should be collected within 12 weeks of symptom onset for Zika virus IgM MAC-ELISA testing.
- Blood should be collected and processed per routine guidelines (collected in a serum separator tube with serum aliquots transferred to new vials), and stored in a refrigerator (2-8°C) until it is known if additional IgM testing is indicated.
- Call KDHE’s Epidemiology Hotline at (877) 427-7317 if you wish to conduct Zika IgM MAC-ELISA testing.
- Patients who do not meet the clinical AND epidemiological (travel history or sexual exposure to an individual with suspected Zika virus infection) criteria will not qualify for IgM testing.

Why is there a need for additional testing after a PCR negative result?

- Additional testing may be indicated because of the decline in the level of viremia over time and possible inaccuracy in reporting of the dates of illness onset. As with all diagnostic tests, a negative result does not rule out infection.

Questions regarding this guidance can be directed to the Kansas Department of Health and Environment Epidemiology Hotline (877) 427-7317.