

Massachusetts Department of Public Health

May 16, 2016

Weekly Zika Virus Update



Zika Virus Weekly Update

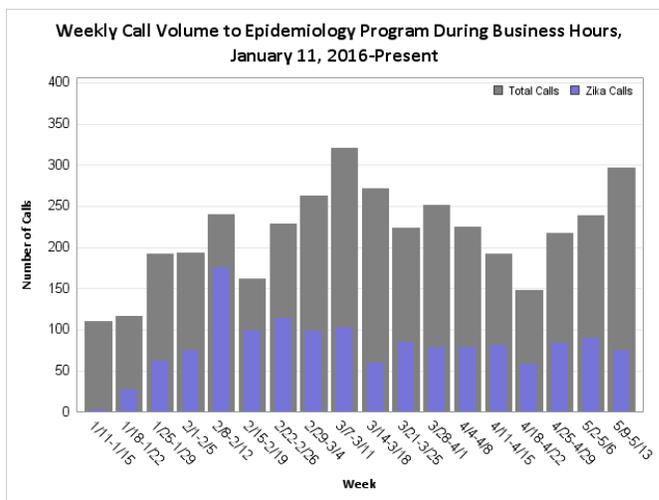
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Report Number: 015

DPH Activities Summary:

- All questions related to Zika virus testing requests should be directed to the 24/7 Epidemiology line, 617-983-6800.
- MDPH hosted a conference call for Local Boards of Health in Zika virus; there were 120 attendees. There was also a briefing for the Public Health Council on Zika virus.
- An updated Zika Virus Fact Sheet was posted on the MDPH website in 5 languages, English, Spanish, Portuguese, Haitian-Creole and French.
- MDPH Epidemiology Staff continue to receive calls from clinicians, local health, and concerned residents regarding Zika virus and its public health implications in Massachusetts. The weekly call volume regarding Zika is shown below. Total calls received during business hours since January 11 is 1439. **Please note in the graph below, Zika calls are shown in purple/blue as a proportion of the total calls received on the 6800 line.**

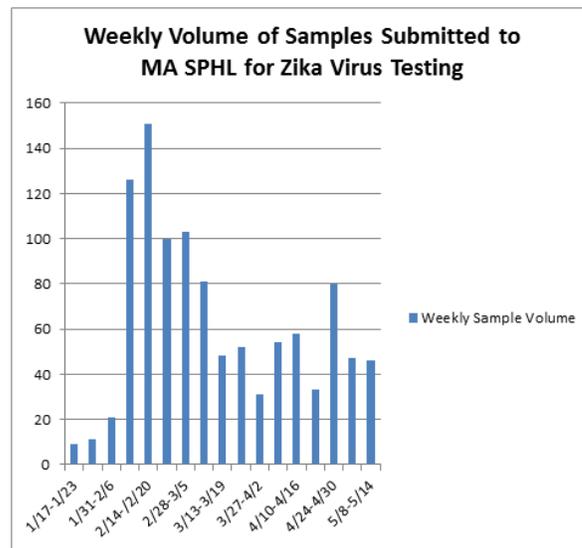


- The MA State Public Health Laboratory (MA SPHL) uses a PCR test to detect the genetic material of Zika and chikungunya viruses and the Zika IgM MAC-ELISA to test for antibody response to infection. Additional work is ongoing to reach full testing functionality which will include PCR, ELISA and PRNT (confirmatory) testing for Zika, chikungunya and dengue viruses.
- Staff members of the Bureau of Infectious Disease and Laboratory Sciences and the Bureau of Family Health and Nutrition Birth Defects Surveillance reviewed the results of the pilot process that relies on medical chart abstraction by the Massachusetts Birth Defects Registry to collect information for the U.S. Zika Pregnancy Registry. The mechanism was judged to be a relatively efficient way to collect the necessary data.

- MDPH is collaborating with the MA Department of Agricultural Resources and the Mosquito Control Districts on continuing to enhance the surveillance efforts for *Aedes albopictus* which have been ongoing since 2008.

Laboratory Testing Summary:

- The MA SPHL tested 10 samples (7 serum and 3 urine) from 7 patients by PCR and 30 samples from 30 patients using the IgM ELISA test. Positive PCR tests are confirmatory while positive IgM tests require further testing by PRNT, currently being done by CDC, to confirm the results.



New or Revised State Guidance: None

National Activities

CDC Updates:

- On May 20, the CDC will begin reporting the total number of pregnant women with evidence of Zika virus infection being tracked nationally through the U.S. Zika Pregnancy Registry.
- On May 11, CDC issued a Funding Opportunity Announcement, *Public Health Preparedness and Response (PHPR) Cooperative Agreement for All-Hazards Public Health Emergencies: Zika 2016*, to provide funding to accelerate public health planning to prevent, prepare for, respond to, and recover from Zika. Massachusetts DPH is eligible to apply for \$281,525 to be used primarily to support public health incident management and emergency operations coordination, information management and sharing; and community recovery and resilience. The application is due on June 13.

Publications: [Interim Guidance for Zika Virus Testing of Urine — United States, 2016](#)

[Comparison of Test Results for Zika Virus RNA in Urine, Serum, and Saliva Specimens from Persons with Travel-Associated Zika Virus Disease — Florida, 2016](#)

Guidance: [All Countries and Territories with Active Zika Virus Transmission](#)

Educational materials: [Zika and Sexual Transmission: What we know and what we don't know](#)

For further information regarding Zika go to:

<http://www.mass.gov/dph/zika>

Please share with colleagues and throughout your agency, organization and/or associations. If you have comments, questions or feedback, contact us at the 24/7 Epi Line (617) 983-6800 or by email at DPH.EmergencyPreparedness@state.ma.us.