

Massachusetts Department of Public Health

May 23, 2016

Weekly Zika Virus Update



Zika Virus Weekly Update

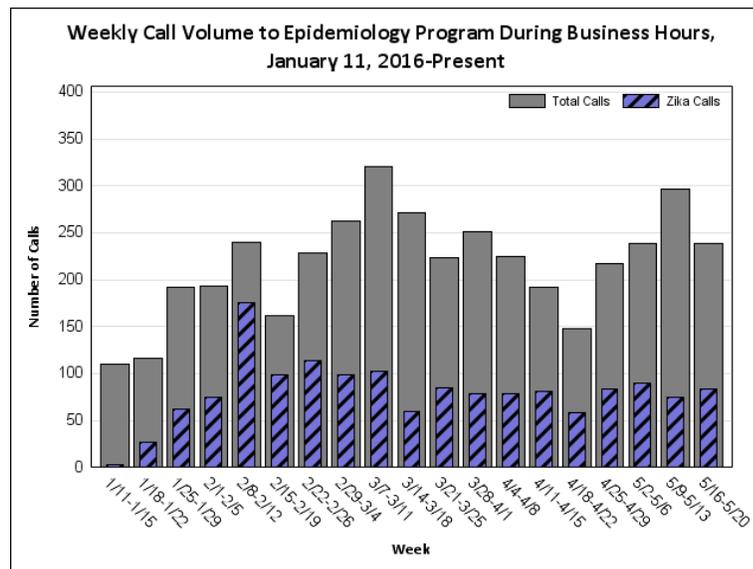
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Report Number: 016

DPH Activities Summary:

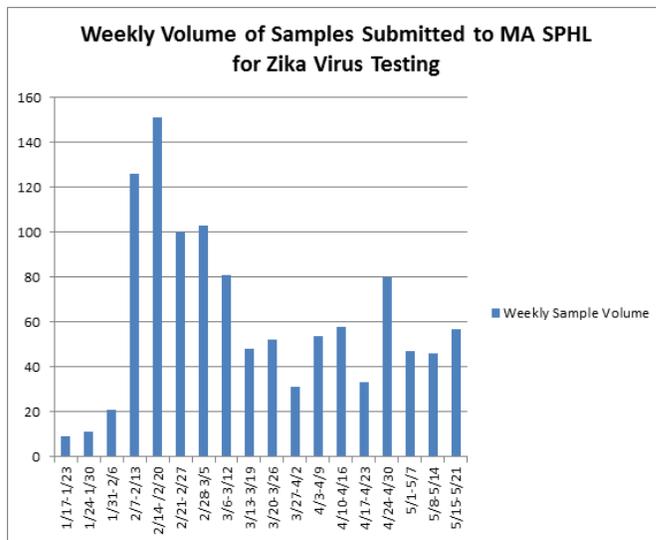
- All questions related to Zika virus testing requests should be directed to the 24/7 Epidemiology line, 617-983-6800.
- MDPH participated in a conference call hosted by the Boston Public Health Commission for the Boston hospitals to help answer questions about Zika virus testing.
- MDPH Epidemiology 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.



- 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, and the Boston Public Health Commission, are moving forward with data collection on women and infants meeting criteria for enrollment in the U.S. Zika Pregnancy Registry.
- MDPH is continuing to collaborate 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. A MDPH representative attended the most recent State Reclamation and Mosquito Control Board meeting.

Laboratory Testing Summary:

- The MA SPHL tested 12 samples (8 serum and 4 urine) from 9 patients by PCR and 53 samples from 53 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 began reporting the total number of pregnant women with evidence of Zika virus infection being tracked nationally through the U.S. Zika Pregnancy Registry (ZPR). This does not actually indicate an increased number of cases identified nationally. This report documents the already known number of pregnant women with any evidence of even possible Zika virus infection that will be followed through the ZPR. For more information see [Pregnant Women with Any Laboratory Evidence of Possible Zika Virus Infection in the United States and Territories, 2016](#)

Publications: [Possible Zika Virus Infection Among Pregnant Women — United States and Territories, May 2016](#)

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

Educational materials: [Zika: The Basics of the Virus and How To Protect Against It](#)
[How to Protect Against Mosquito Bites](#)

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